



Shojo Beat Manga

love★com



**Lovely ★
Complex**

Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

9



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The Story So Far. . .

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo...except that Risa falls in love with Ôtani! She finally works up the courage to tell him how she feels, only to be told he can't think of her as anything more than a friend. Even so, she keeps trying to change his mind, and after a ton of twists and turns, they start going out!! This is the first time Risa's ever had a boyfriend, and she's all excited about it... But then one day, on their way to his house, they bump into Ôtani's neighbor, Mimi, who is not only a beautiful 13-year-old model, but is also madly in love with Risa's boyfriend!! Unfortunately for Mimi though, Ôtani is totally oblivious... and Risa knows only too well what that feels like! So even though Mimi threatens to take Ôtani away from her, Risa can't help sympathizing and even helping her out. Finally, she wins Mimi's grudging respect...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* Vol. 1-8, available at bookstores everywhere!!

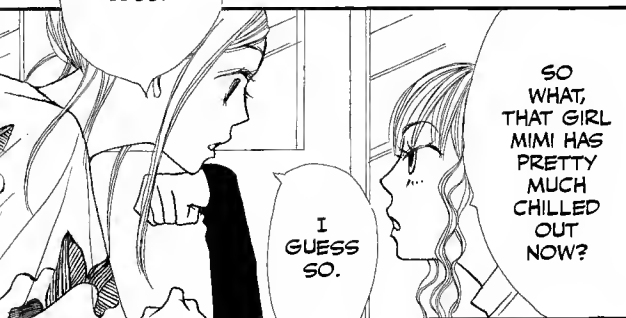
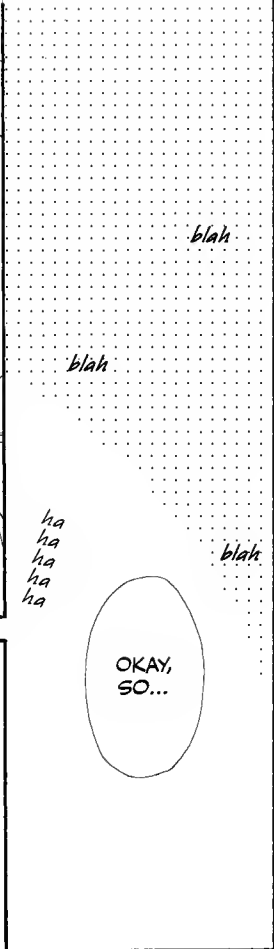


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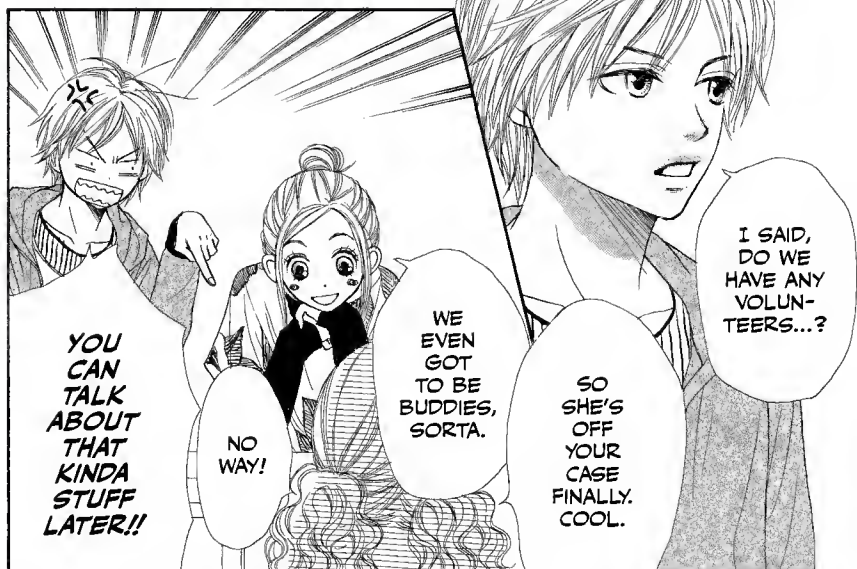
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Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara





CHAPTER 33



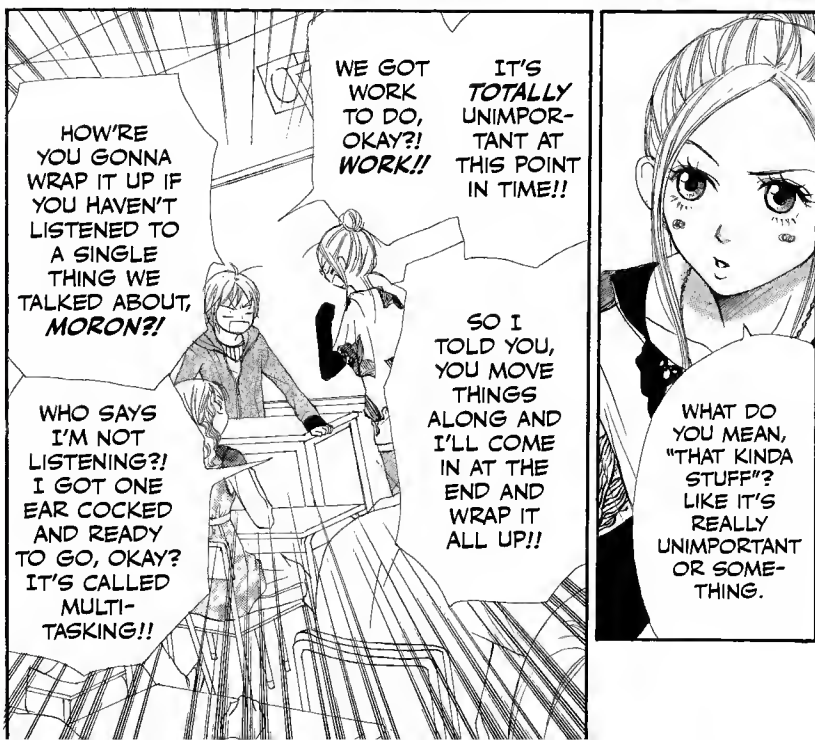
**YOU
CAN
TALK
ABOUT
THAT
KINDA
STUFF
LATER!!**

**NO
WAY!**

**WE
EVEN
GOT
TO BE
BUDDIES,
SORTA.**

**SO
SHE'S
OFF
YOUR
CASE
FINALLY.
COOL.**

**I SAID,
DO WE
HAVE ANY
VOLUN-
TEERS...?**



**HOW'RE
YOU GONNA
WRAP IT UP IF
YOU HAVEN'T
LISTENED TO
A SINGLE
THING WE
TALKED ABOUT,
MORON?!**

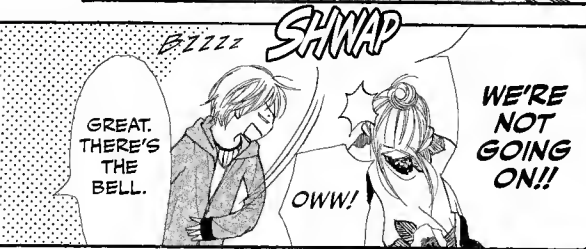
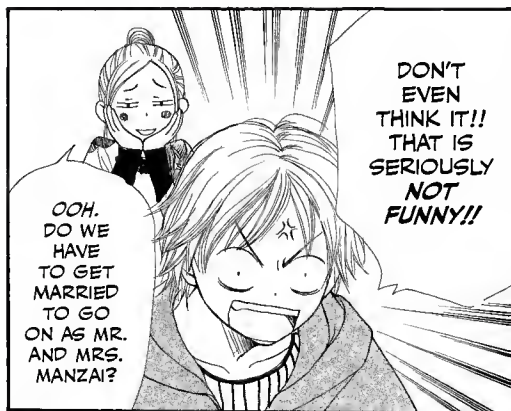
**WHO SAYS
I'M NOT
LISTENING?!
I GOT ONE
EAR COCKED
AND READY
TO GO, OKAY?
IT'S CALLED
MULTI-
TASKING!!**

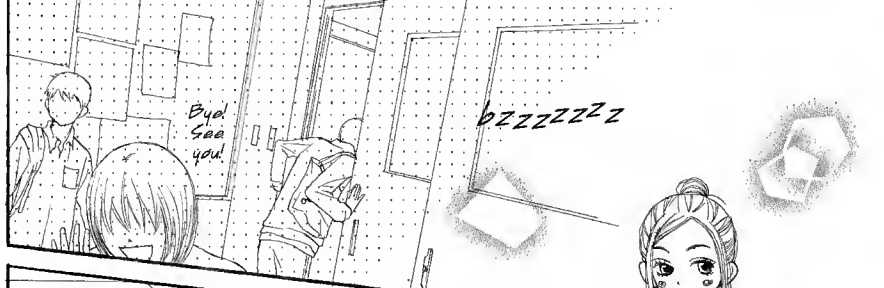
**WE GOT
WORK
TO DO,
OKAY?!
WORK!!**

**IT'S
TOTALLY
UNIMPORT-
TANT AT
THIS POINT
IN TIME!!**

**SO I
TOLD YOU,
YOU MOVE
THINGS
ALONG AND
I'LL COME
IN AT THE
END AND
WRAP IT
ALL UP!!**

**WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"THAT KINDA
STUFF"?
LIKE IT'S
REALLY
UNIMPORTANT
OR SOME-
THING.**





Bye!
See
you!

bzzzzzzzz



List...
Stuff
to buy...
Signs...

WHAT A
TOTAL
PAIN
IN THE
BUTT...

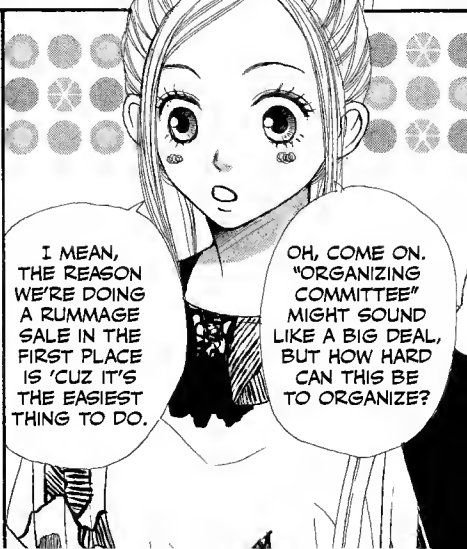
THANKS
A LOT,
KOIZUMI,
YOU BIG
DITZ.
THIS IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT...



WHAT
IS YOUR
PROBLEM?
WHY CAN'T WE
JUST DO IT
TOGETHER?

YOU SAID IT,
YOU DO IT!!
IF IT'S SO
EASY, YOU
TAKE CARE
OF IT!!

'CUZ DOING
IT TOGETHER
WITH YOU IS
AN EVEN
BIGGER PAIN
THAN DOING
IT ALONE,
THAT'S WHY!!



I MEAN,
THE REASON
WE'RE DOING
A RUMMAGE
SALE IN THE
FIRST PLACE
IS 'CUZ IT'S
THE EASIEST
THING TO DO.

OH, COME ON.
"ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE"
MIGHT SOUND
LIKE A BIG DEAL,
BUT HOW HARD
CAN THIS BE
TO ORGANIZE?



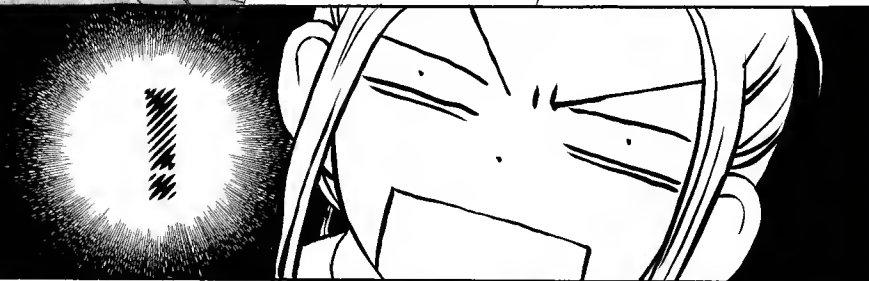
IN FACT,
ALL YOU
DO IS GET
IN MY WAY.
AND YOU'LL
DEFINITELY
SCREW IT
UP ON
YOUR OWN.

SO
FORGET IT.
I'LL JUST
ORGANIZE
THIS
THING BY
MYSELF.



**NWA-
ARGH
?!**

LOOK, I'VE
BEEN STUCK
RUNNING
ERRANDS AND
STUFF WITH
YOU FOR
CLOSE TO
THREE YEARS.
I KNOW WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.



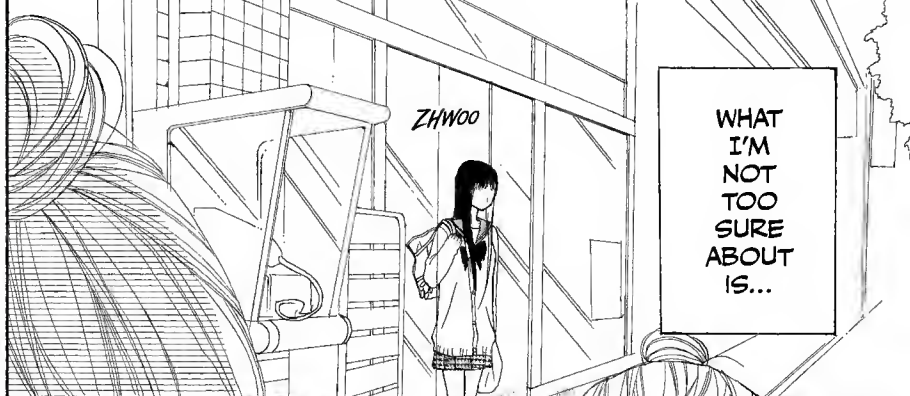
NOBODY
IN THE
WORLD
LOVES
HIM MORE
THAN
I DO.

THAT I
KNOW
FOR
SURE.

OWW-
WWW!

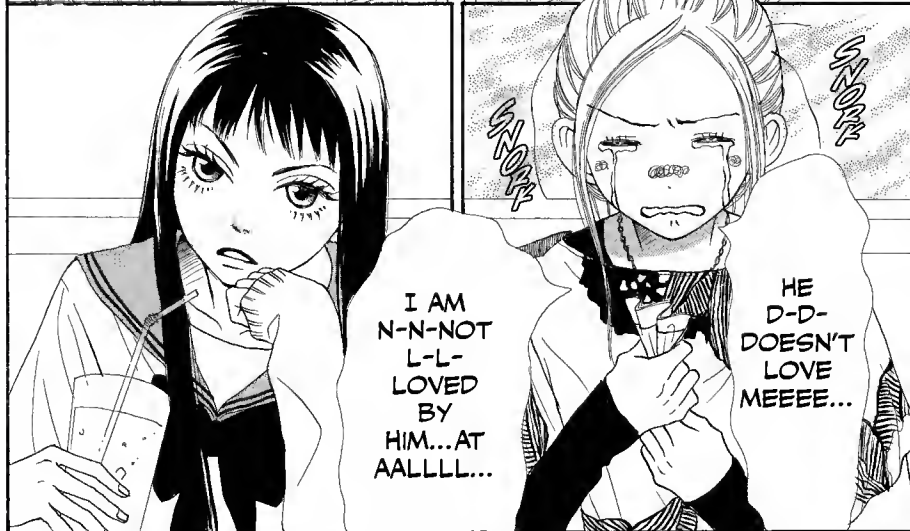
ARGH!
OUCH!
OWW!!

**E
E
E
E
S
H
!!**



ZHWOO

WHAT
I'M
NOT
TOO
SURE
ABOUT
IS...



I AM
N-N-NOT
L-L-LOVED
BY
HIM...AT
AALLLL...

HE
D-D-DOESN'T
LOVE
MEEEE...



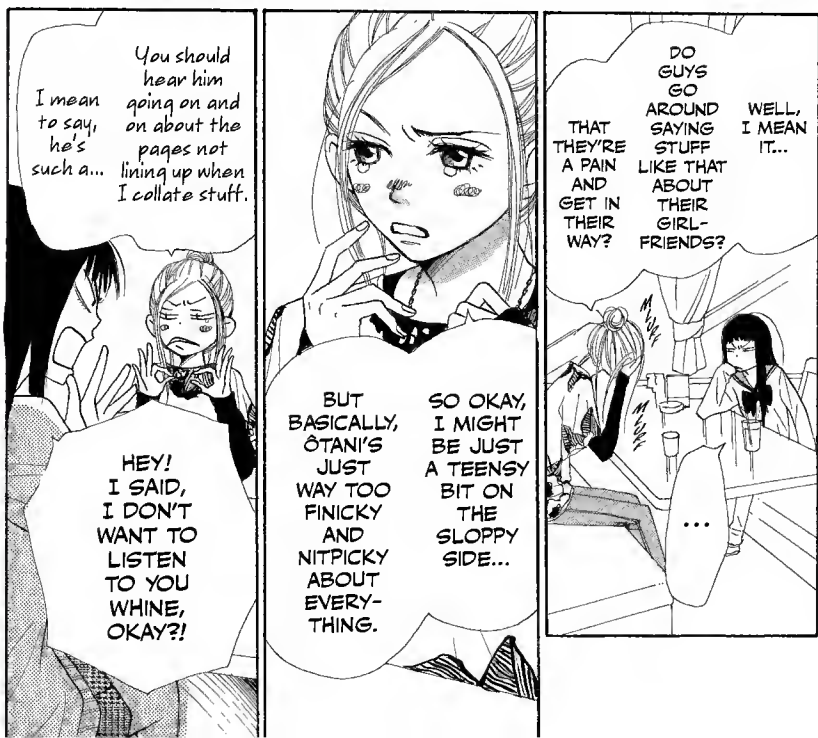
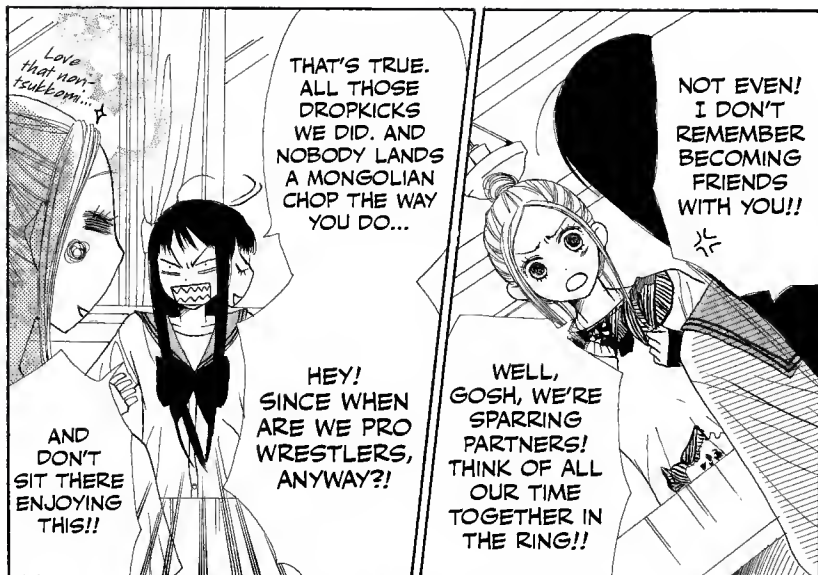
'CUZ
YOU'RE
MY
FRIEND
!!

WHY
SHOULD I
SIT HERE
LISTENING
TO YOU
WHINE?!



NO, WAIT!
MIMI-CHAN,
PLEASE,
YOU GOTTA
LISTEN
TO ME!!

I'M
GOING
HOME.
BYE.



...OH YEAH.
THE STUFF
WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH...

DON'T
GET ALL
NOSTALGIC!
IT *JUST*
HAPPENED!!

BECAUSE I'M
TOTALLY NUTS
ABOUT HIM, AND
JUST BEING
WITH HIM IS
ENOUGH FOR
ME!!

THE WAY HE
TREATS ME, I
DON'T EVEN KNOW
IF HE LOVES ME
IN THE FIRST
PLACE! BUT YOU
KNOW WHAT? I
DON'T CARE!

I MEAN,
JEEZ.
AFTER
PUNCHING
ME IN THE
FACE AND
CALLING ME
A TOTAL
WUSS.

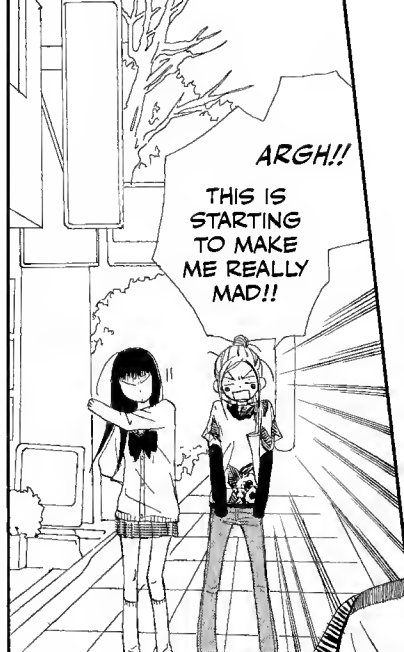
WELL, I LIVE
MOMENT
TO MOMENT,
IMPULSE TO
IMPULSE...

ALL YOU DO IS
GET IN MY WAY.

THE
WAY HE
TREATS ME,
I REALLY
DON'T
KNOW IF HE
LOVES ME
AT ALL.

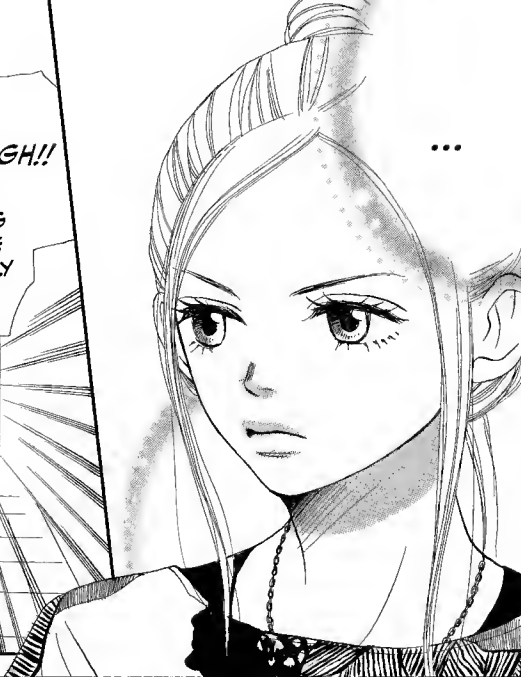
I SAID
THOSE
THINGS
TO MIMI IN
THE HEAT
OF THE
MOMENT,
BUT...

...ACTUALLY,
I'M
STARTING
TO FREAK
OUT.

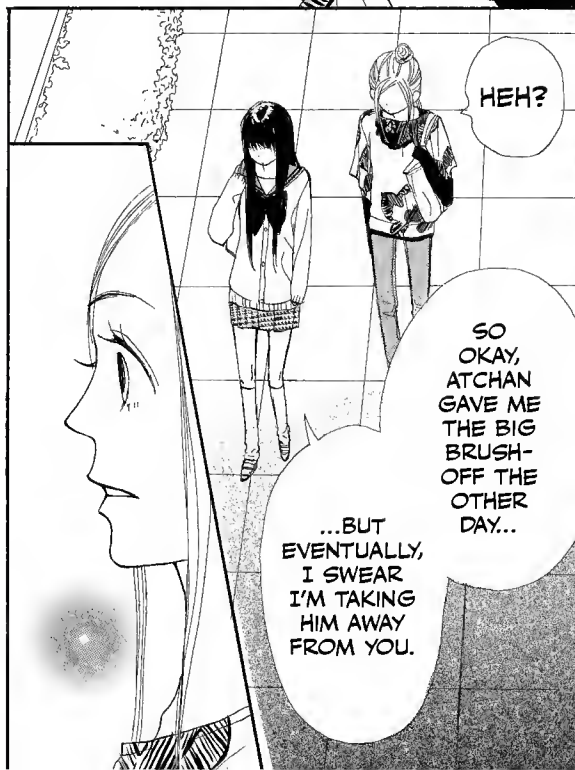


ARGH!!

THIS IS
STARTING
TO MAKE
ME REALLY
MAD!!



...



HEH?

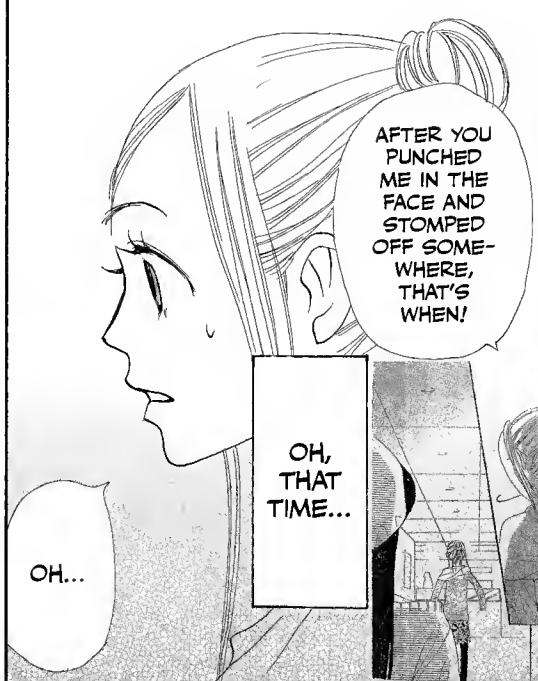
SO
OKAY,
ATCHAN
GAVE ME
THE BIG
BRUSH-
OFF THE
OTHER
DAY...

...BUT
EVENTUALLY,
I SWEAR
I'M TAKING
HIM AWAY
FROM YOU.



JEEZ.

I STILL
DON'T
GET WHY
I HAVE TO
LOSE TO
A DOPE
LIKE YOU.



AFTER YOU
PUNCHED
ME IN THE
FACE AND
STOMPED
OFF SOME-
WHERE,
THAT'S
WHEN!

OH,
THAT
TIME...

OH...



HE
GAVE
YOU THE
BRUSH-
OFF?!

WHEN?!

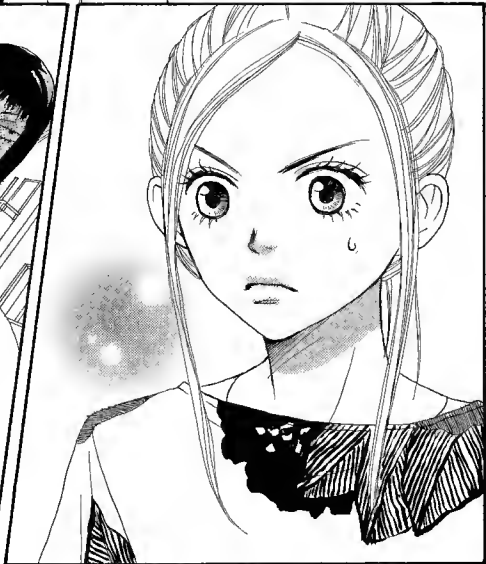
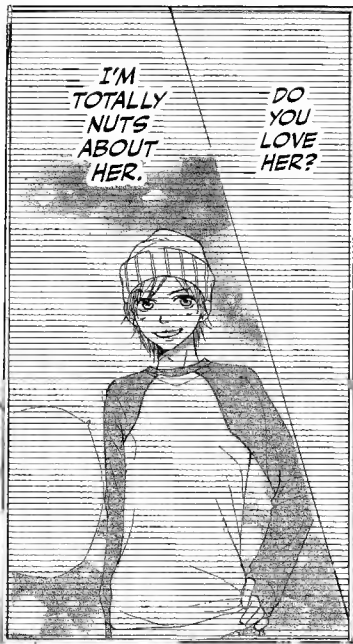


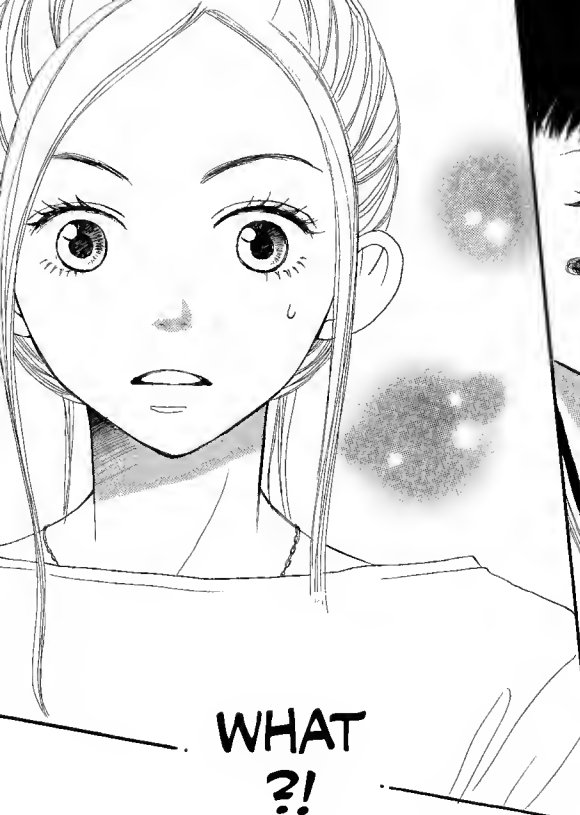
AND HE
SAID
HE'S...

I
ASKED
HIM
ABOUT
YOU...



WHAT
DID HE
SAY TO
YOU...?



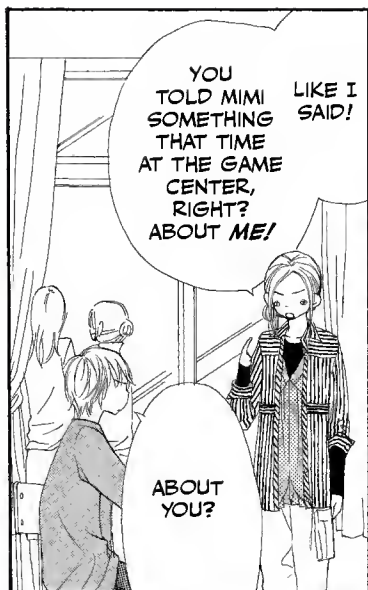


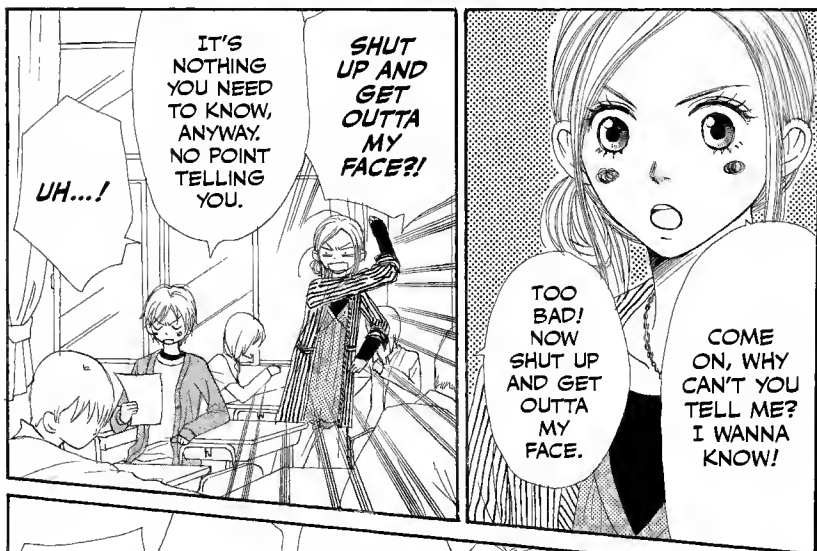
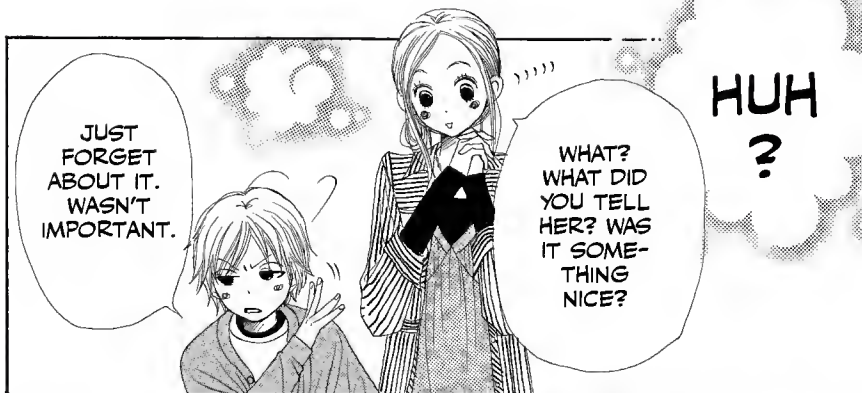
WHAT
?!



I'LL BE
SEEING
YA, BYE.







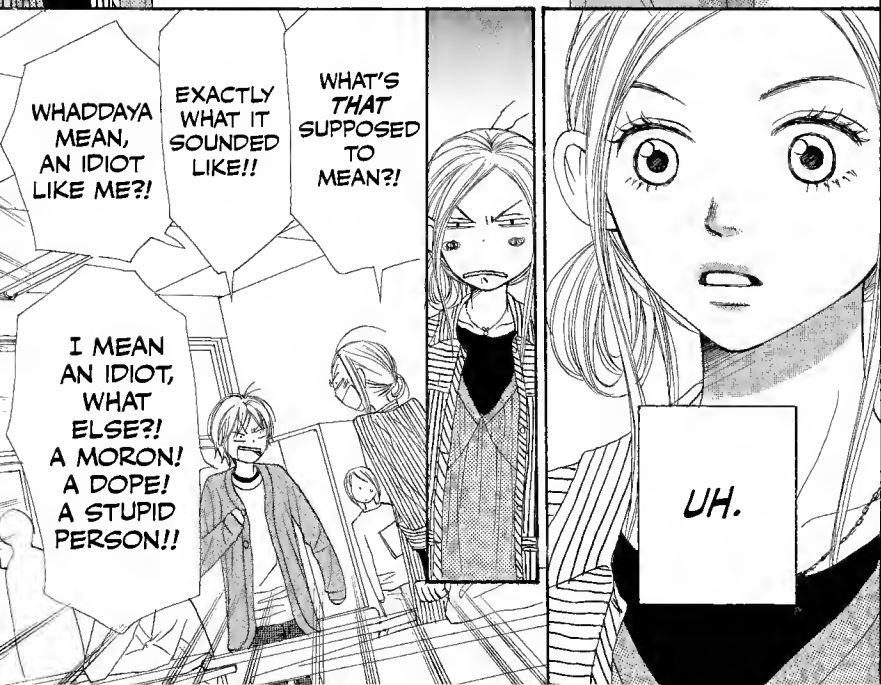


BEING
WITH AN
IDIOT LIKE
YOU CAN
BE A REAL
DRAG
SOME-
TIMES!!

THAT'S
WHAT
I TOLD
HER THE
OTHER
DAY!!

WHO
CARES
ABOUT THAT
STUFF?!
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
DO IT
RIGHT THIS
MINUTE!!

AAARGH!
WILL YOU
JUST GET
OFF MY
BACK?!



WHADDAYA
MEAN,
AN IDIOT
LIKE ME?!

EXACTLY
WHAT IT
SOUNDED
LIKE!!

WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO
MEAN?!

I MEAN
AN IDIOT,
WHAT
ELSE?!
A MORON!
A DOPE!
A STUPID
PERSON!!

UH.



**FINE!
I WILL!**

**SHUDDUP
AND LEAVE
ME ALONE,
MORON!!**



**I KNOW
WHAT AN
IDIOT IS,
YOU IDIOT!
AND I
SURE DON'T
WANT TO
BE CALLED
STUPID BY
SOMEONE
AS STUPID
AS YOU!!**



**MIGHT'VE
KNOWN IT
WOULD BE
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.**

SHWAPPP

SHWAPPP






THAT
IS JUST
WAY TOO
EMBAR-
RASS-
ING!!

SEE?

YOU GOTTA
SAY STUFF
LIKE THAT IN
FRONT OF RISA,
STRAIGHT TO
HER FACE.
SHE'S GOTTA
HEAR IT FROM
THE HORSE'S
MOUTH!



I LOVE NOBU-
CHAN MORE
THAN ANYBODY
ELSE IN THE
WHOLE WORLD,
SO I'D NEVER DO
ANYTHING THAT
WOULD HURT
HER FEELINGS
OR MAKE HER
WONDER HOW
I FELT ABOUT
HER!




I LOVE YOU.
I REALLY DO.



I JUST
LOVE
YOU SO
MUCH!!

I LOVE
YOU,
ÔTANI!!

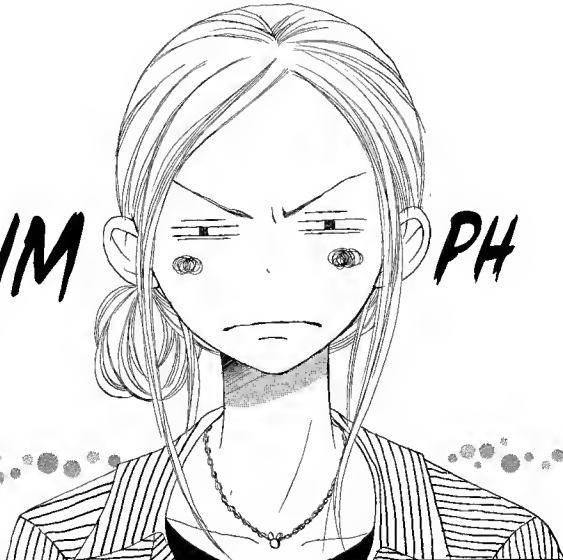


YOU THINK
IT'S ANY EASIER
FOR RISA?! IT'S
JUST AS EMBAR-
RASSING FOR
HER, AND LOOK
AT HOW MANY
TIMES *SHE* DID
IT FOR *YOU*!



HUM

PH



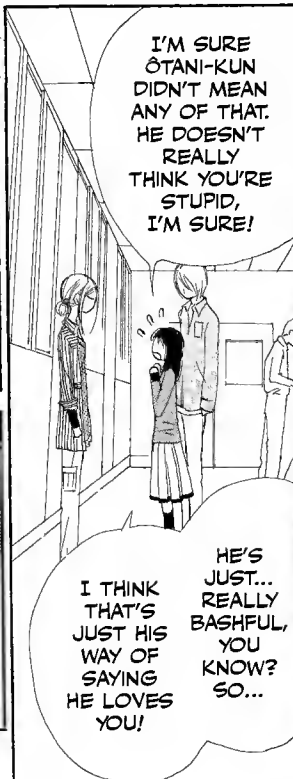
...HE'S
BASHFUL,
SO HE
CALLS ME
STUPID AS
A WAY OF
SAYING HE
LOVES ME?



YEAH!
I THINK
SO!



I'M SURE
OTANI-KUN
DIDN'T MEAN
ANY OF THAT.
HE DOESN'T
REALLY
THINK YOU'RE
STUPID,
I'M SURE!

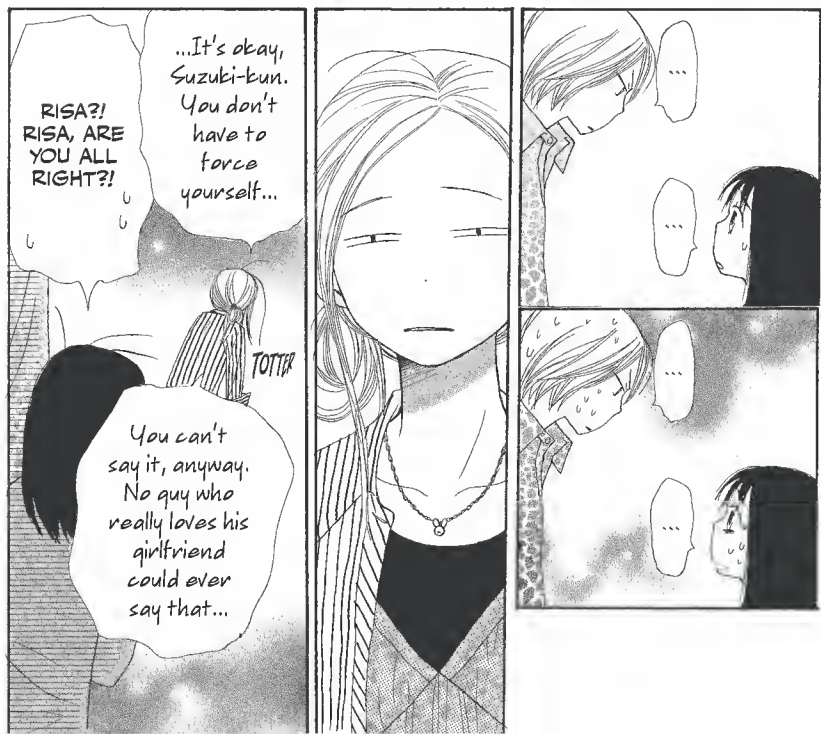
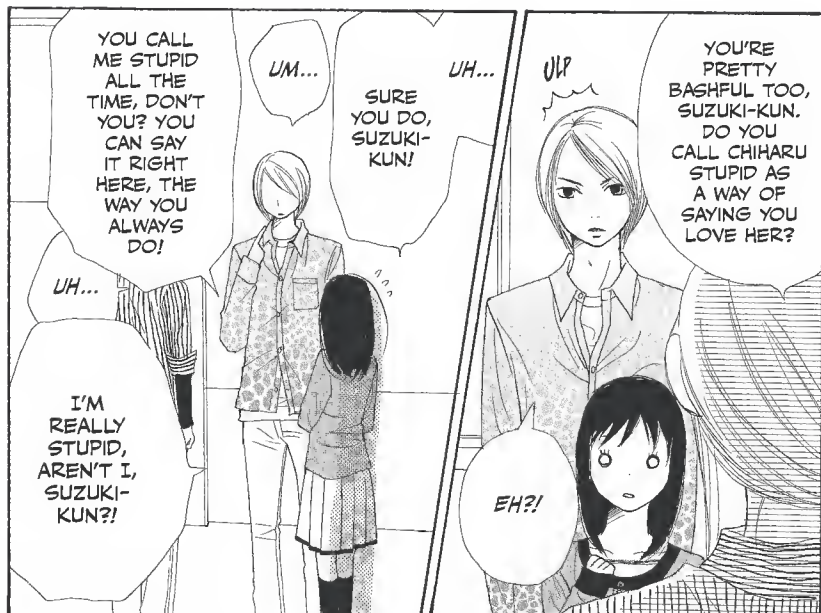


I THINK
THAT'S
JUST HIS
WAY OF
SAYING
HE LOVES
YOU!

HE'S
JUST...
REALLY
BASHFUL,
YOU
KNOW?
SO...

UH...
RISA?
DON'T
BE SO
UPSET.
IT'S
OKAY!





...
LUCKY
DUCKIES.

NO, I'M
SORRY!
I JUST
SPRANG
THAT ON
YOU!

SORRY,
CHIHARU.
I JUST
COULDN'T
DO IT...

LUCKY
THEM...

blah

blah

*See you
tomorrow!*

ARE
ALL
SO
LOVEY-
DOVEY
...

CHIHARU
AND
SUZUKI...

AND
NOBU
AND
NAKAO
...





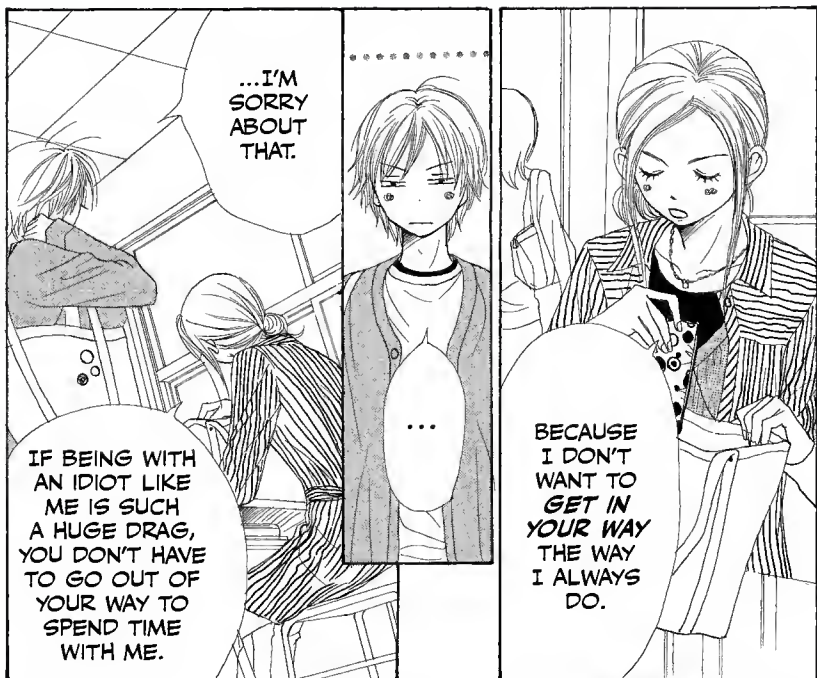
I WAS
WONDERING
IF YOU'D
HELP ME
OUT WITH
BUYING
STUFF FOR
SETTING
UP THE
RUMMAGE
SALE?

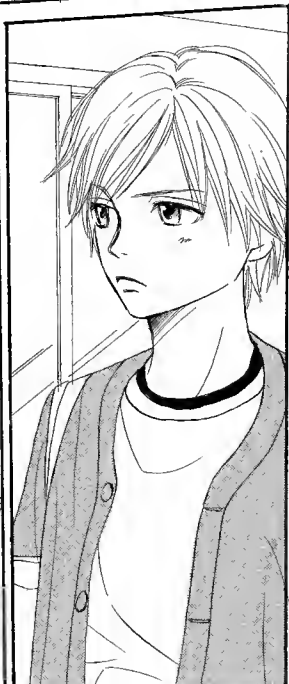
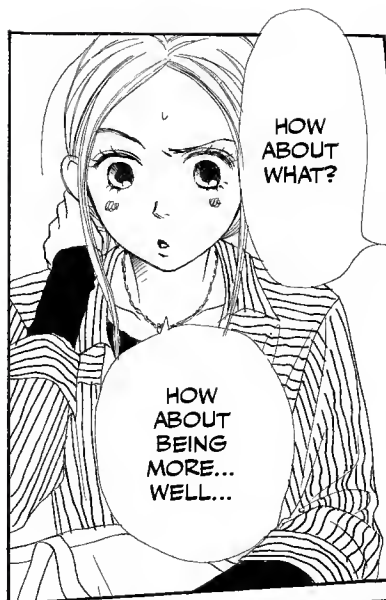


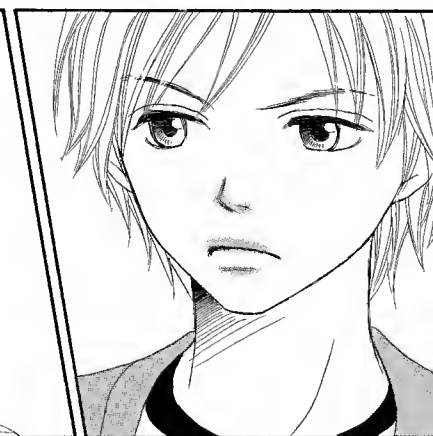
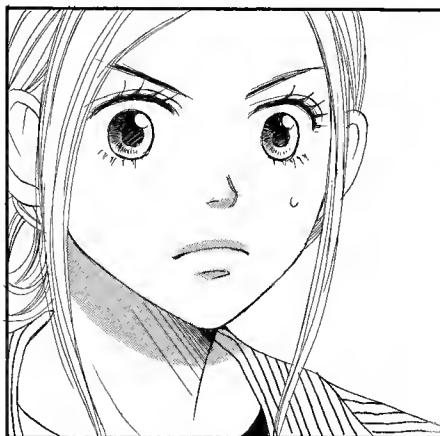
WHAT.

UMMMM...
SO.









Hello, Nakahara here.
We're up to Volume 9.
Gee, this is getting long...

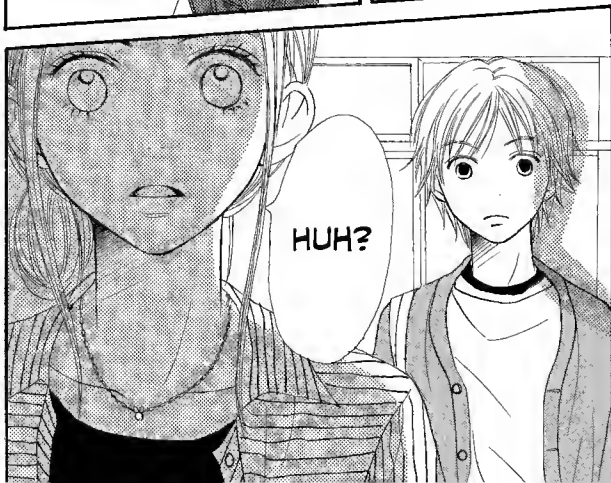
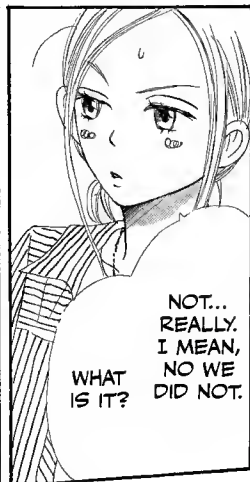
And meanwhile, I was meaning about how hot it was until just the other day, and now it's already fall. Gee, that was fast. Gotta go out and buy some fall fash-

ions.
But the thing is...well. I draw all kinds of clothes in my manga and stuff, but me myself, I'm not very stylish at all. The pictures drawn by truly stylish people are so stylish, they could show naked people and they'd look stylish. If I draw naked people, all we'd have is your average NC-17 poster. Uh-huh.

Not that anybody cares about that.

Well, anyways... I sure hope you'll continue to nipple down to your bookstore for further volumes of Love★Com!

hahahaha
Very funny.

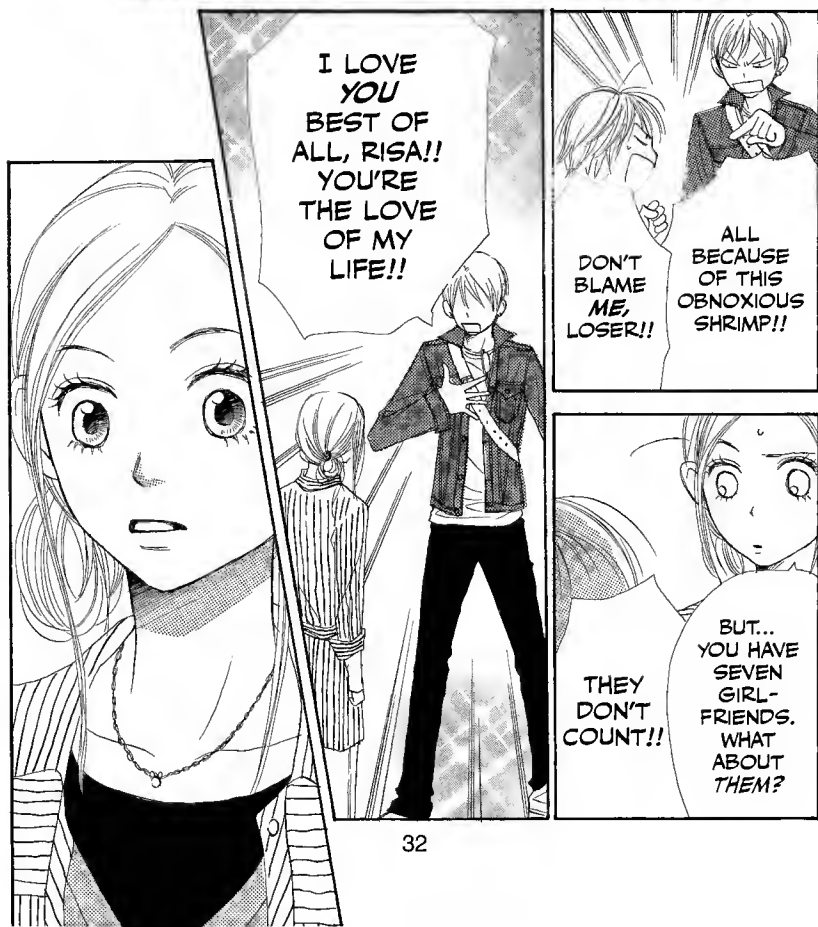




...JUST SO
I COULD BE
WITH YOU,
RISA. BUT YOU
WOULDN'T GO
OUT WITH ME,
AND NOW WE
DON'T HAVE
ANY MEMORIES
TOGETHER...

I PITCHED
A MAJOR FIT
TO GET INTO
THIS SCHOOL
BECAUSE MY
HOUSE IS
ACTUALLY IN
ANOTHER
DISTRICT...

'CUZ IT'S
OUR LAST
HIGH
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL
EVER.



I LOVE
YOU
BEST OF
ALL, RISA!!
YOU'RE
THE LOVE
OF MY
LIFE!!

DON'T
BLAME
ME,
LOSER!!

ALL
BECAUSE
OF THIS
OBNOXIOUS
SHRIMP!!

THEY
DON'T
COUNT!!

BUT...
YOU HAVE
SEVEN
GIRL-
FRIENDS.
WHAT
ABOUT
THEM?



SEE
IF I
CARE.

JEEZ!
WHAT THE
HECK AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?

I MIGHT BE
BIG AND
STUPID, BUT
I'VE GOT
SOMEONE
WHO LOVES
ME AND
ISN'T AFRAID
TO SAY SO,
SO THERE.

HEY RISA,
YOU WANNA
STOP FOR
A CUP OF
COFFEE
OR SOME-
THING?

SURE,
LET'S!

UH...!

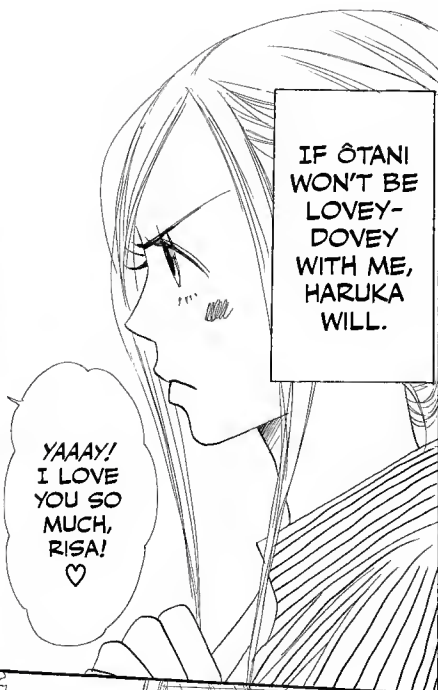
HEH,
HEH, HEH!
EAT YOUR
HEART
OUT,
MIDGET
BOY!

C'MON,
HARUKA.
LET'S
GO!

hyuk
hyuk
hyuk
hyuk

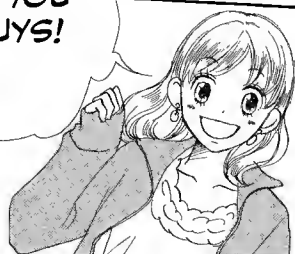


KOIZUMI
SENPAI!
AND
HARUKA!
HI, YOU
GUYS!



IF ÔTANI
WON'T BE
LOVEY-
DOVEY
WITH ME,
HARUKA
WILL.

YAAAY!
I LOVE
YOU SO
MUCH,
RISA!
♡



HI,
SEIKO-
CHAN.



I
THOUGHT
FOR SURE
YOU'D
SAY NO!

THIS IS
GOING TO
BE YOUR
LAST
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL
EVER,
SENPAI!

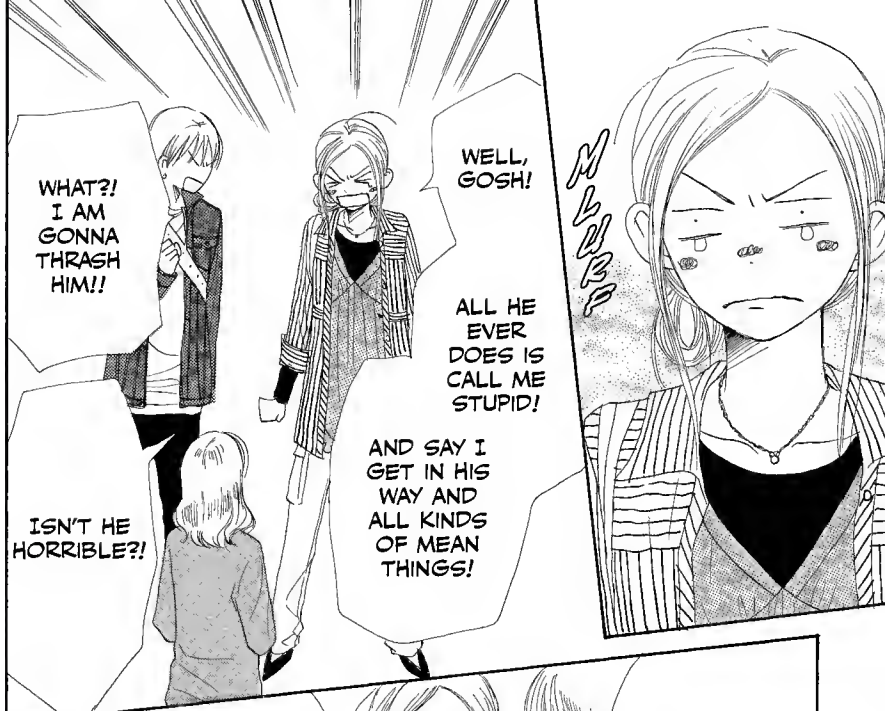
I MEAN,
DON'T YOU
WANT TO
GO AROUND
WITH ÔTANI
SENPAI?



LISTEN
TO
THIS,
SEIKO!

RISA
SAID SHE'S
GOING TO
GO AROUND
WITH ME
AT THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL!

WHAAAT?!
IS THAT
FOR REAL?!



WHAT?!
I AM
GONNA
THRASH
HIM!!

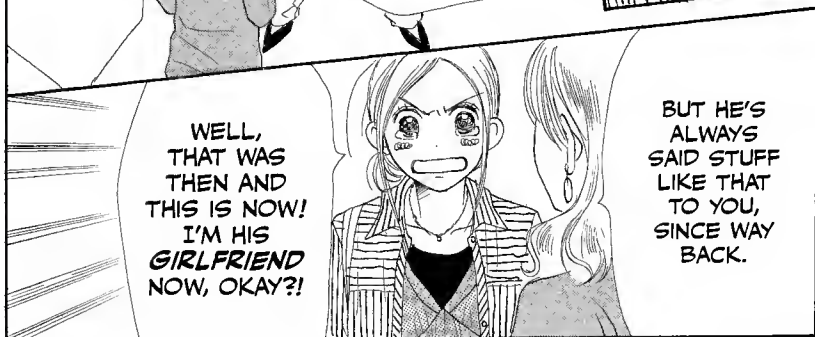
WELL,
GOSH!

ALL HE
EVER
DOES IS
CALL ME
STUPID!

ISN'T HE
HORRIBLE?!

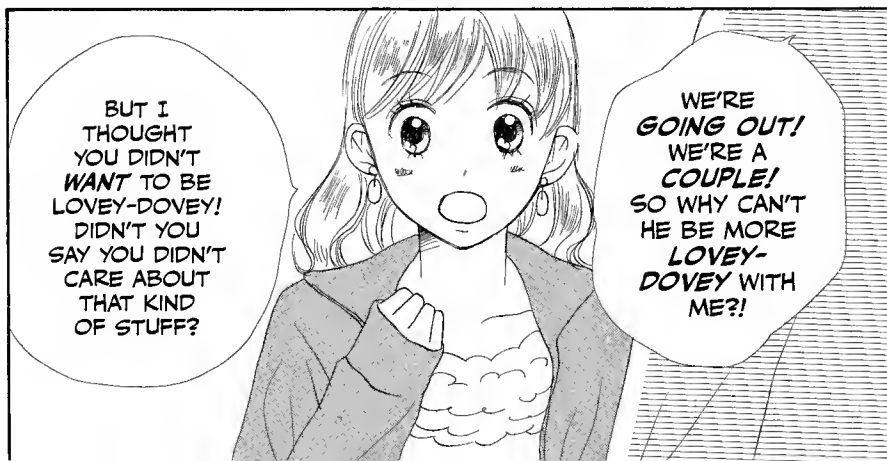
AND SAY I
GET IN HIS
WAY AND
ALL KINDS
OF MEAN
THINGS!

M
H
H
P



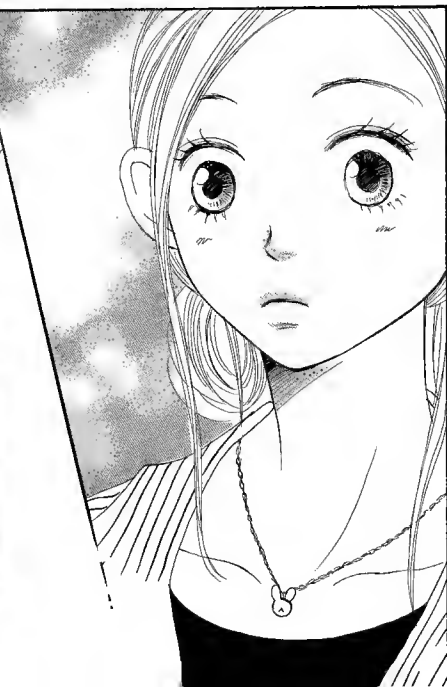
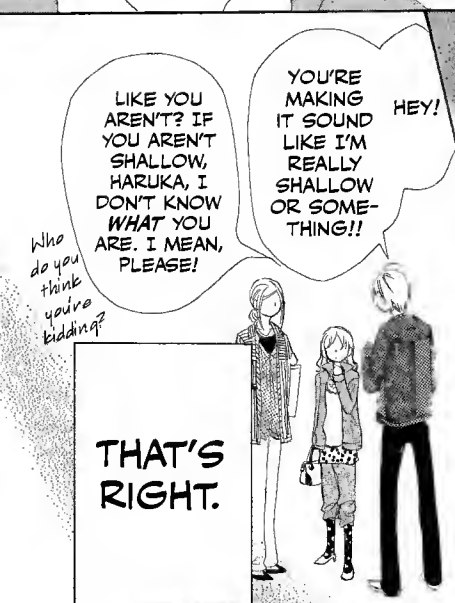
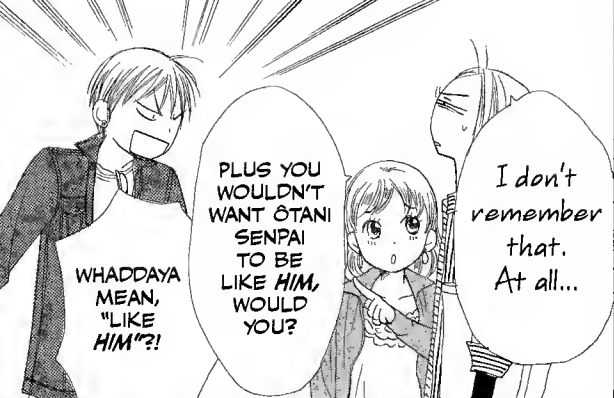
WELL,
THAT WAS
THEN AND
THIS IS NOW!
I'M HIS
GIRLFRIEND
NOW, OKAY?!

BUT HE'S
ALWAYS
SAID STUFF
LIKE THAT
TO YOU,
SINCE WAY
BACK.



BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO BE
LOVEY-DOVEY!
DIDN'T YOU
SAY YOU DIDN'T
CARE ABOUT
THAT KIND
OF STUFF?

WE'RE
GOING OUT!
WE'RE A
COUPLE!
SO WHY CAN'T
HE BE MORE
LOVEY-DOVEY
WITH
ME?!





I
LOVE
YOU,
BABY.
♡

WAS IT TO
HEAR HIM
TELL ME
HOW MUCH
HE LOVES
ME EVERY
DAY?

WAS IT
BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO BE ALL
LOVEY-
DOVEY WITH
HIM ALL
THE TIME?

WHY DID
I TELL
ÔTANI I
LOVE HIM
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE?

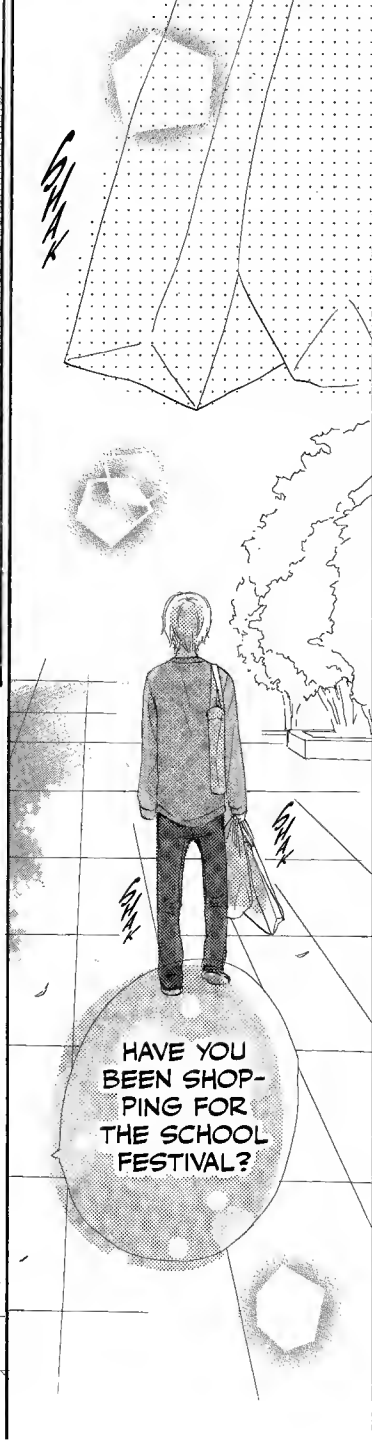
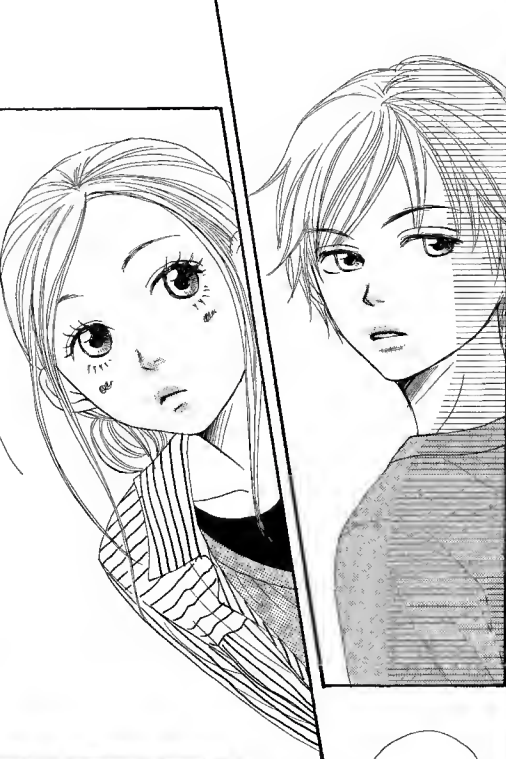
...NUH-
UH.
THAT
WASN'T
WHY...

...

YOU
ARE THE
CUTEST
THING
I EVER
SAW.
♡

I LOVE
YOU TOO,
DARLING.
♡

tee
hee
♡



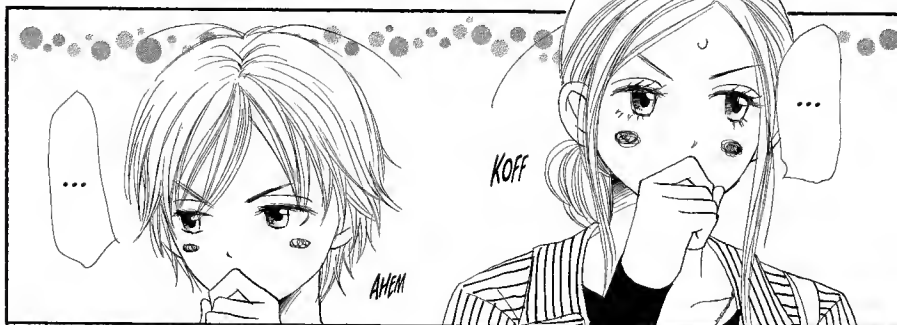
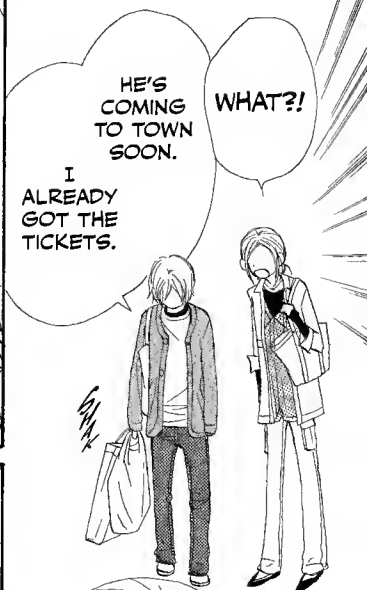
MIND IF
I GET
IN YOUR
WAY,
SIR?

...PLEASE
DO.
MADAM.

KINDLY
ACCEPT AN
UMIBÔZU
TICKET AS
PAYMENT,
IF YOU
WOULD.

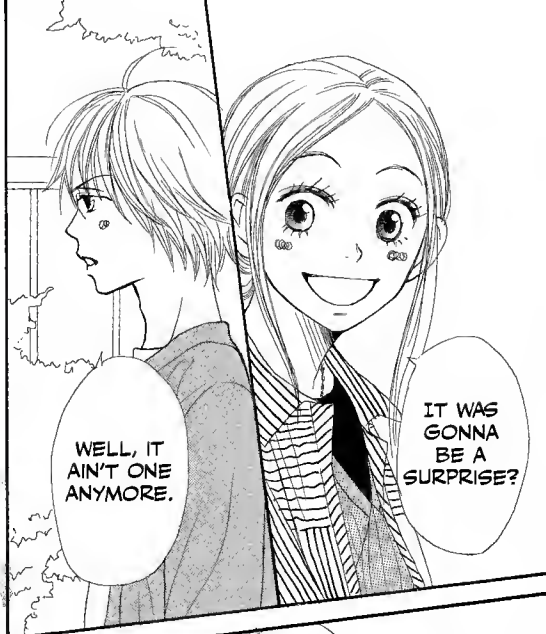
MY
SERVICES
DON'T
COME
CHEAP,
HOW-
EVER.

HAVE YOU
BEEN SHOP-
PING FOR
THE SCHOOL
FESTIVAL?





HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE!



WELL, IT
AIN'T ONE
ANYMORE.

IT WAS
GONNA
BE A
SURPRISE?



YOU
KNOW...

I THINK
MAYBE I
WAS BEING
A LITTLE
TOO
GREEDY.



SO
OKAY, WE
AREN'T
ALL
LOVEY-
DOVEY
WITH EACH
OTHER...

OH,
DEFI-
NITELY.
HE'S
GOTTA!

I CAN
HARDLY
WAIT. YOU
THINK
HE'LL DO
"FISH IN
HELL"?

I
KNOW,
HUH?

WOW,
UMIBÔZU.
WE
HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
LIVE IN
AGES.

HE'S
RIGHT. I
REALLY
AM
STUPID.

HEY...

I FEEL
SO
HAPPY
JUST
BEING
WITH HIM.
WHAT
MORE
DO I
NEED?

...BUT I HAVE
SO MUCH
FUN JUST
HANGING
OUT WITH
HIM LIKE
THIS.

You're
such
an
idiot...

What
if he
makes
eye
contact
with me?



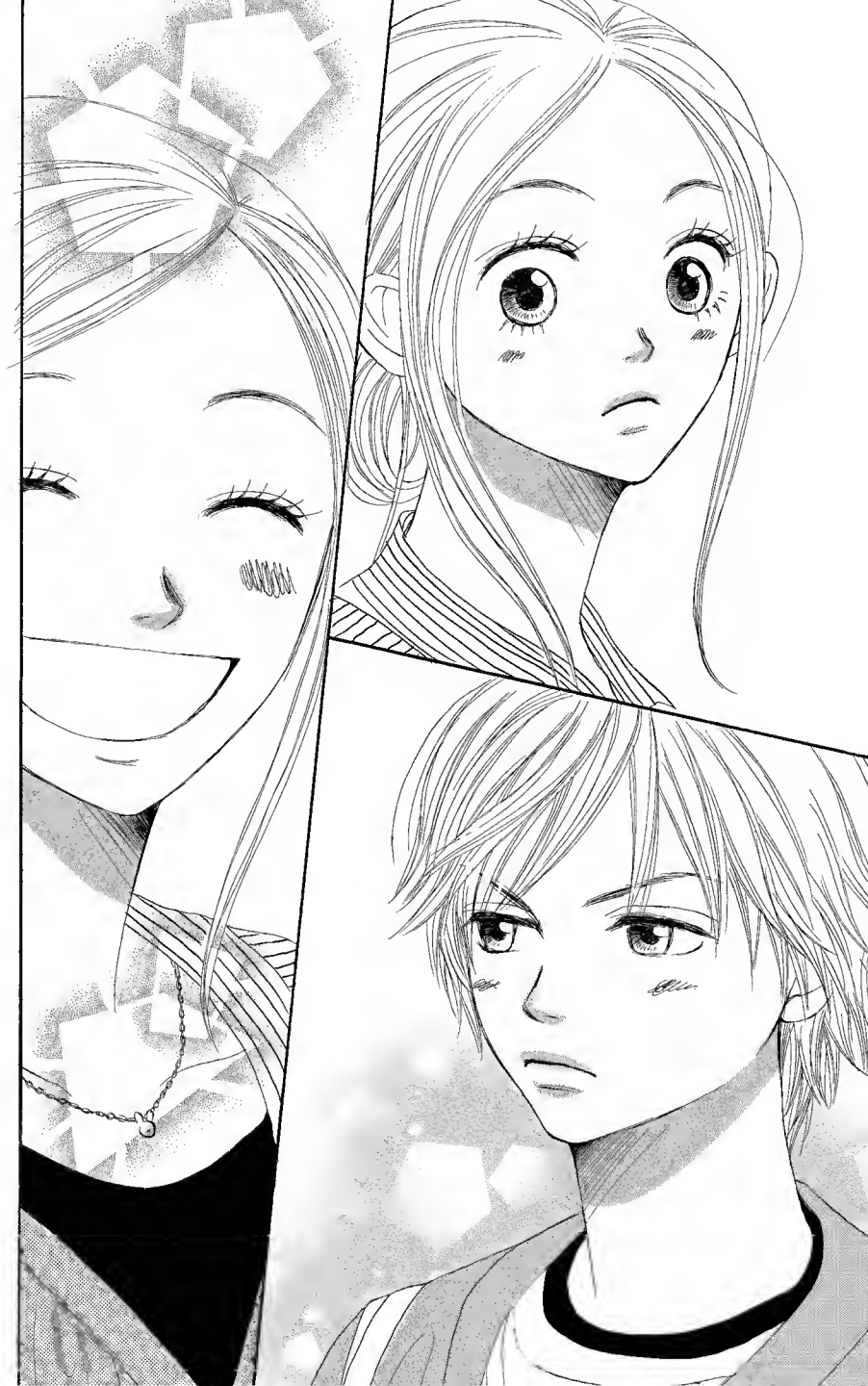
IT'S
OUR
VERY
LAST
ONE.

SO,
WELL...I
WANT TO
SPEND IT
WITH THE
PERSON
I LOVE
BEST.

KOIZUMI.

THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL.
LET'S GO
AROUND
TOGETHER,
YOU AND
ME.

HUH?

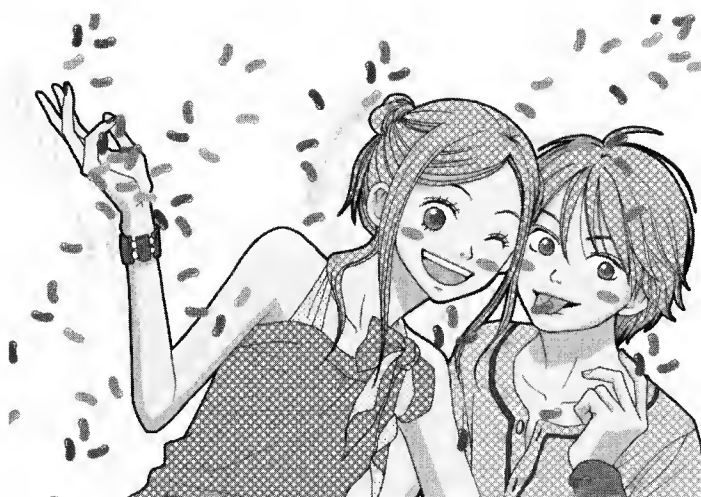


SO I
GUESS
I DON'T
MIND!

...BUT
ONCE IN
A WHILE,
I FEEL
LIKE HE
LOVES
ME AFTER
ALL...

SOME-
TIMES
HE REALLY
CHEWS ME
OUT AND
SAYS THE
MEANEST
THINGS...





CHAPTER 34





OOH,
LOOK!

46th Annual
Maido Festival
PROGRAM

OUR VERY
LAST HIGH
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL IS
COMING UP
TOMORROW.

LET'S GO
TO THIS
TOMORROW
FOR SURE!

THE
BAKING
CLUB'S
"ANGEL
CAFÉ
SEIKO!"



SO
WHAT'S
THE DEAL,
HARUKA
RETIRED
AS CHIEF
BAKER?

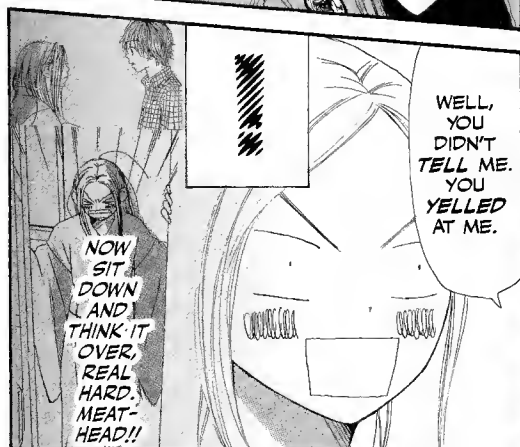


HUH?



AND,
OH! THIS
LOOKS
LIKE A
LOT OF
FUN
OVER
HERE!

WHAT'S
WITH YOU?
IS IT
REALLY
THAT
INCREDIBLY
EXCITING?





HEY!!
THAT'S
NOT
FAIR!
MOST
GUYS
AREN'T
AS DUMB
AS YOU
ARE!!

AH YES,
OF COURSE.
THE SECOND
TIME YOU TELL
A GUY YOU'RE
HOT FOR HIM,
CALL HIM A
MEATHEAD.

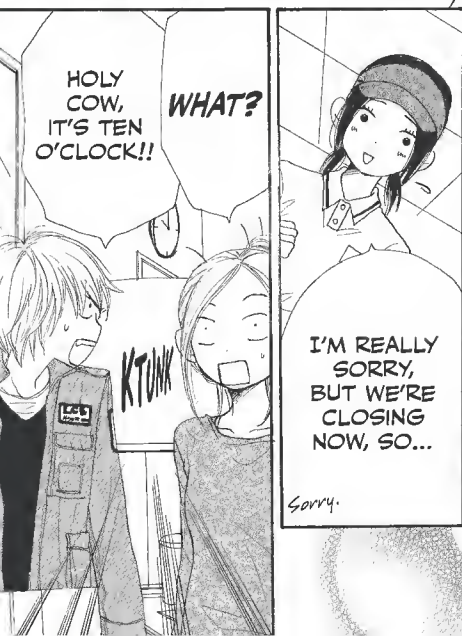
H-
HEY!

THAT'S
'CUZ THAT
WAS THE
SECOND
TIME! AND
YOU WERE
BEING *SO*
DENSE!!



UMMM...
EXCUSE
ME?

HEY,
LET'S SEE
IF ANOTHER
CLASS IS
DOING A
HAUNTED
MANSION
THIS YEAR.
MIGHT BE
FUN.



HOLY
COW,
IT'S TEN
O'CLOCK!!

WHAT?

KTUNK

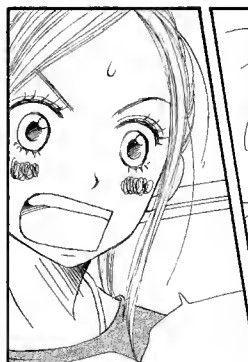
I'M REALLY
SORRY,
BUT WE'RE
CLOSING
NOW, SO...

Sorry.



WOW,
IT'S
BEEN A
WHOLE
YEAR
ALREADY
...

...SINCE
I FINALLY
GOT IT
THROUGH
TO HIM
IN THAT
WEIRD WAY.



THE
REASON
THIS
HAPPENS
IS YOU
**EAT SO
SLOW!!**

DON'T
BLAME
ME!



YOU
KNOW
WHY THIS
HAPPENS?
'CUZ YOU
TALK TOO
MUCH, YOU
DOPE!!



WE'RE
REALLY
SORRY
ABOUT
THIS!!
YOU
NEED TO
CLEAN
UP, HUH?!

IT'S
OKAY...

OMIGOD,
HOW
MANY
HOURS
HAVE WE
BEEN
HERE?!



I'M
SORRY!
I JUST
COULDN'T
HELP...

OH!



PFFFT!

OH, RIGHT!
THAT'S NOT
BECAUSE I
EAT SLOW,
IT'S BECAUSE
I GOTTA
KEEP YOU
COMPANY!
**YAKKETY-
YAK-YAK-YAK!**

LOOKIT!
WHEN'D
YOU ORDER
THESE
FRENCH
FRIES? SIX
HOURS AGO?
YOU'RE STILL
EATING
THEM!

LISTEN,
IF I WAS
TALKING
ALL THE
TIME,
YOU
COULD
EAT!
YOU'RE
YAKKING
AWAY
TOO!



...BUT NOW,
A YEAR
LATER,
THE TWO
OF US ARE
GOING
OUT...

SO YEAH,
A LOT
HAPPENED
SINCE THEN.
FIRST HE
TURNED
ME DOWN...

YEAH,
THAT'S
YOUR
FAULT!!

SEE!
NOW
WE'RE
GETTING
LAUGHED
AT!

OH, AND
THAT'S MY
FAULT?!

ptt
heo
heo

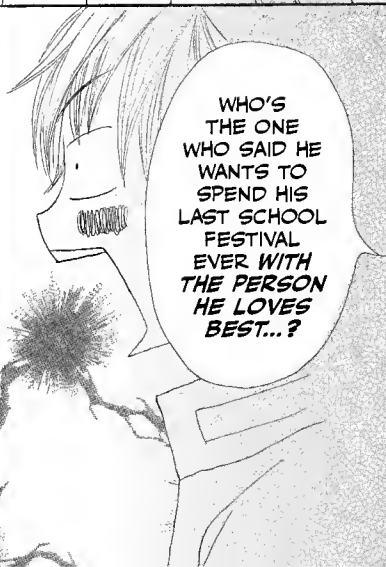
UH-UH.
I'M NOT
LETTING YOU
GO HOME
ALONE THIS
LATE.

THAT'S
OKAY.
I'LL BE
FINE.

I'LL
WALK
YOU
HOME.

AND
FINALLY,
JUST
LATELY,
IT'S
START-
ING TO
SINK IN.





I CAN
HARDLY
WAIT.

HEY,
COME
ON. YOU
DIDN'T
MEAN
THAT!

WE'RE
GOING
TO HAVE
SO
MUCH
FUN
TOMOR-
ROW!

GO
AROUND BY
YOURSELF
TOMOR-
ROW! SPIN
AROUND
LIKE A TOP,
YOU DIZZY
DITZ!!

YOU
REALLY
DRIVE
ME
NUTS!!
JEEZ!!

WHAAT
?!



BET YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
BROUGHT IN
THIS BOXLOAD
OF COMPUTER
GAMES, RISA.

WELCOME
RUMMAGE SALE

"KÖNG LAND"

Where it goes
for a song!



Entrance

Check
it out!



blah

blah

blah

blah

YEAH,
OTAKU
MAYBE.

SOME
PEOPLE
WOULD
BE IM-
PRESSED.

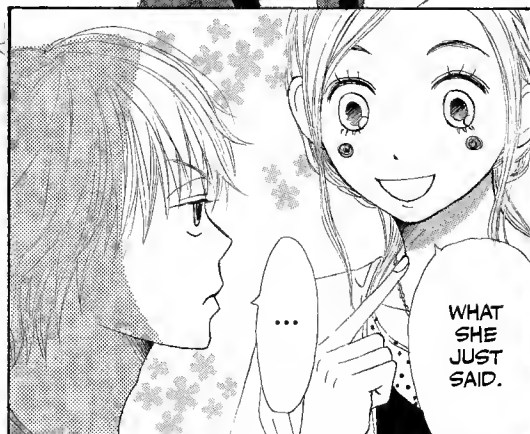
VERY
SEXY.
NOT!!

YUP.

WOW.
SO
YOU'RE
DONE
WITH
ALL OF
THESE?

YUP.

HEY.



...

WHAT
SHE
JUST
SAID.

YOU
GOTTA
HELP
OUT HERE
IN THE
AFTER-
NOON.

*That's
a lotta
games.*

YOU TWO
BETTER GO
AROUND
NOW WHILE
YOU HAVE
THE TIME.

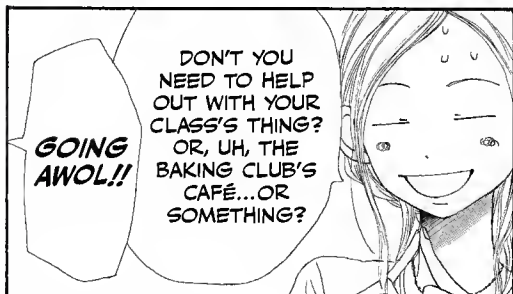
SHUT
UP
AND
LET'S
GO.

OH
GOOD,
SO YOU
DIDN'T
MEAN
THAT
YESTER-
DAY.

FINE,
OKAY,
LET'S
GO THEN.
COME
ON.

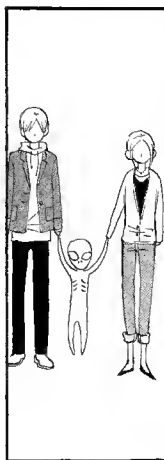


THIS IS
KINDA
LIKE A
DATE!



GOING
AWOL!!

DON'T YOU
NEED TO HELP
OUT WITH YOUR
CLASS'S THING?
OR, UH, THE
BAKING CLUB'S
CAFÉ...OR
SOMETHING?



YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
GOING TO DO
TODAY? WALK
NEXT TO *YOU*,
SO YOU'RE
BETWEEN ME
AND RISA!

ALL
DAY
LONG!

THEY
OUGHTA TAKE
A PICTURE
OF YOU AND
STICK IT IN THE
DICTIONARY AS
THE DEFINITION
OF "PAIN IN
THE BUTT."



JOINING
YOU.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE?!

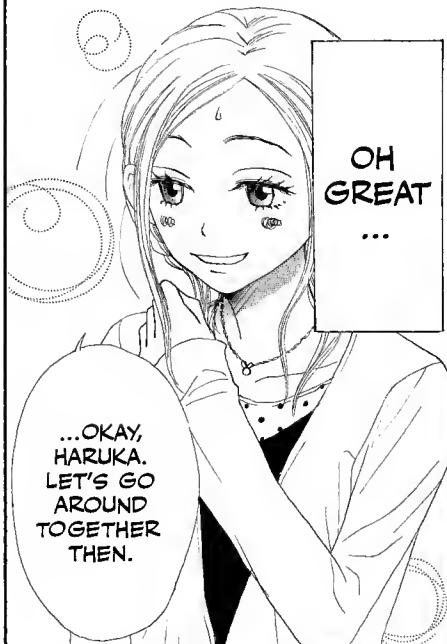
'CUZ RISA
PROMISED
SHE'D GO
AROUND
WITH ME.

BOOM

HUFF

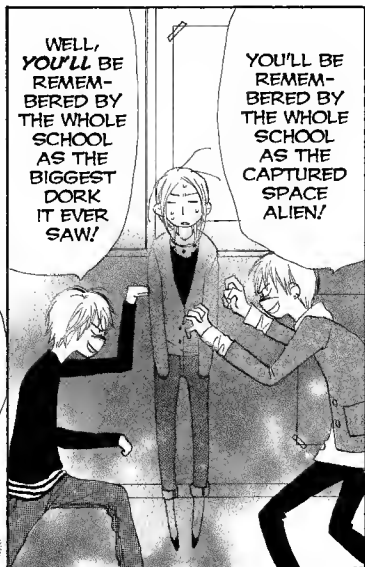
HUH?

HARUKA
...



OH
GREAT
...

...OKAY,
HARUKA.
LET'S GO
AROUND
TOGETHER
THEN.



WELL,
YOU'LL BE
REMEM-
BERED BY
THE WHOLE
SCHOOL
AS THE
BIGGEST
DORK
IT EVER
SAW!

YOU'LL BE
REMEM-
BERED BY
THE WHOLE
SCHOOL
AS THE
CAPTURED
SPACE
ALIEN!



LIKE A
MINIA-
TURE
DACHS-
HUND
WHO
JUST
LOST A
FIGHT.

HUHN?

So don't.
Stick your
tail between
your short little
legs and take
off whimpering,
why don't you?

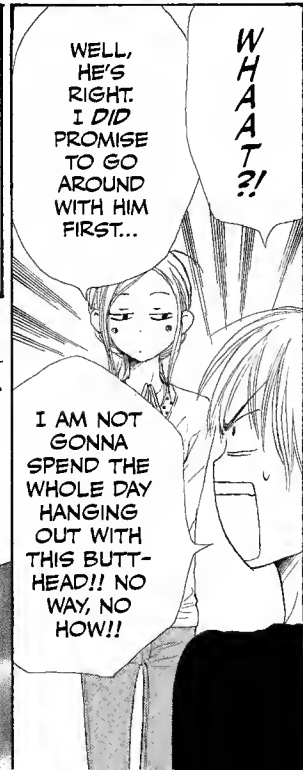


ENOUGH
OF THAT,
YOU
GUYS!!

LIKE AN
OSTRICH
WHO
FINALLY
GOT HIS
HEAD
OUT OF
THE
SAND.

HUHP?

Oh yeah?
Well, why don't
you stick your
neck straight
up and take
off flapping
your arms
around?



WELL,
HE'S
RIGHT.
I DID
PROMISE
TO GO
AROUND
WITH HIM
FIRST...

W
H
A
A
T
?!

I AM NOT
GONNA
SPEND THE
WHOLE DAY
HANGING
OUT WITH
THIS BUTT-
HEAD!! NO
WAY, NO
HOW!!

OH
WELL.

SO
MUCH
FOR THE
"KINDA
LIKE A
DATE"
PART.

THAT'S
THE
WHOLE
POINT!
AND
WHO'D
WANT TO
READ YOU
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE?!

THAT
SUCKS!
THEN
NOBODY
CAN READ
US WITHOUT
BUYING THE
MAGAZINE!

CUT
IT OUT,
HARUKA.

THE
SHRIMP'S
IN A BAD
ENOUGH
MOOD
AS IT IS,
OKAY?

HEY!
THE
SHRIMP
GOES
IN THE
MIDDLE!

...THIS
IS JUST
FANTAS-
TIC.

I'M GONNA
STICK YOU
BOTH IN
A BONUS
MANGA!!

The
kind that
comes stuck
inside!!

Lord Mighty's
Royal♥Chamber

LORD
MIGHTY'S
ROYAL
CHAMBER?

Look,
Risa!
Over
there!

Huh?

GUESS
I'VE ONLY
GOT
MYSELF
TO BLAME.

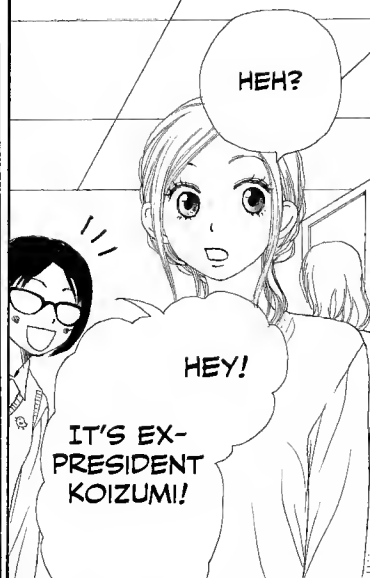


IS
MIGHTY
IN THERE?!

WELL, YOU
QUIT, SO...
I TOOK
OVER AS
PRESIDENT
OF THE
MIGHTY
GIRLS!

OH.

EX-
PRESI-
DENT...?



HEH?

HEY!

IT'S EX-
PRESIDENT
KOIZUMI!



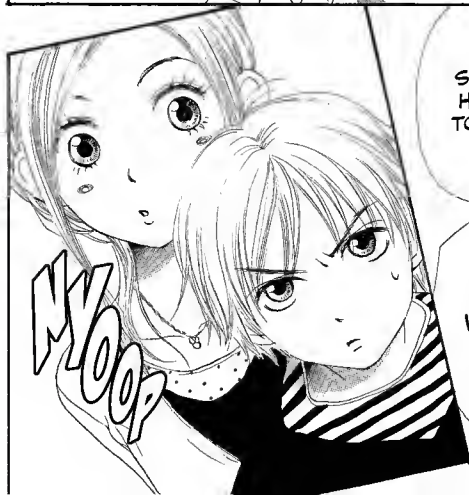
HE MIGHT BE
MARRIED NOW,
BUT LORD
MIGHTY WILL
ALWAYS RULE
OUR HEARTS.



Mighty!

I DIDN'T
KNOW
THAT
EITHER...

THE
MIGHTY
GIRLS
STILL
EXIST?



NYOOP

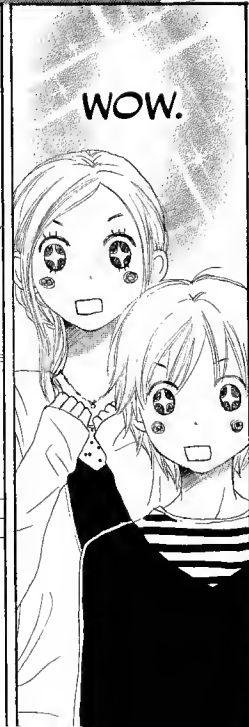
SHE'S
HERE
TODAY.

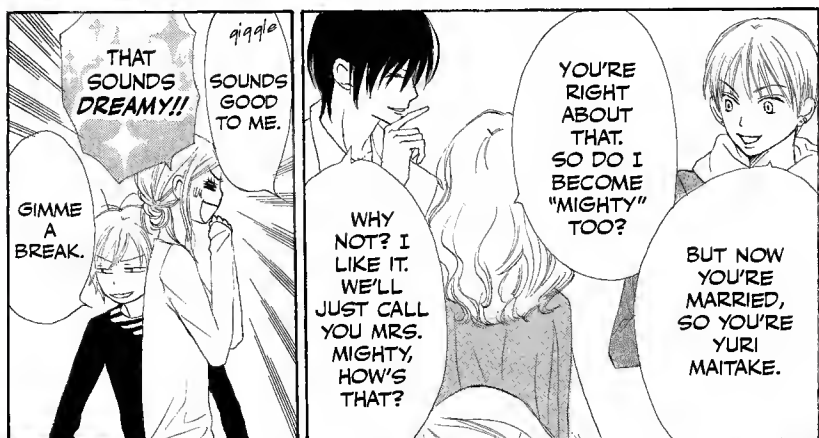
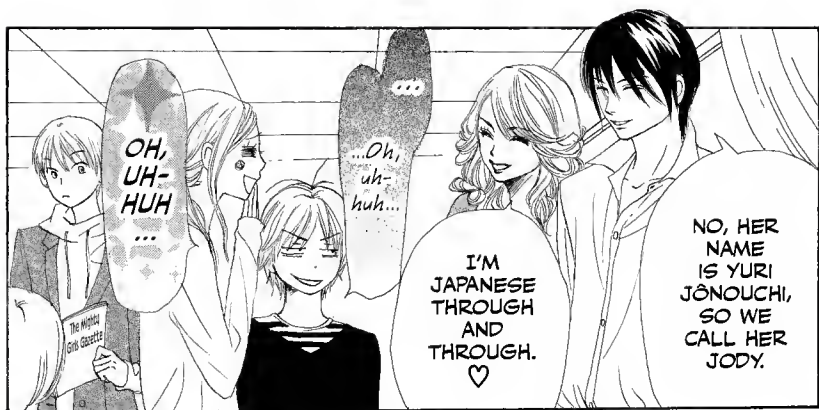
YOU'VE
SEEN
HER?!

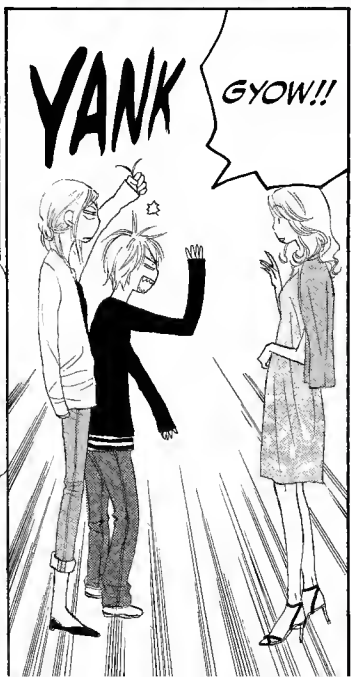
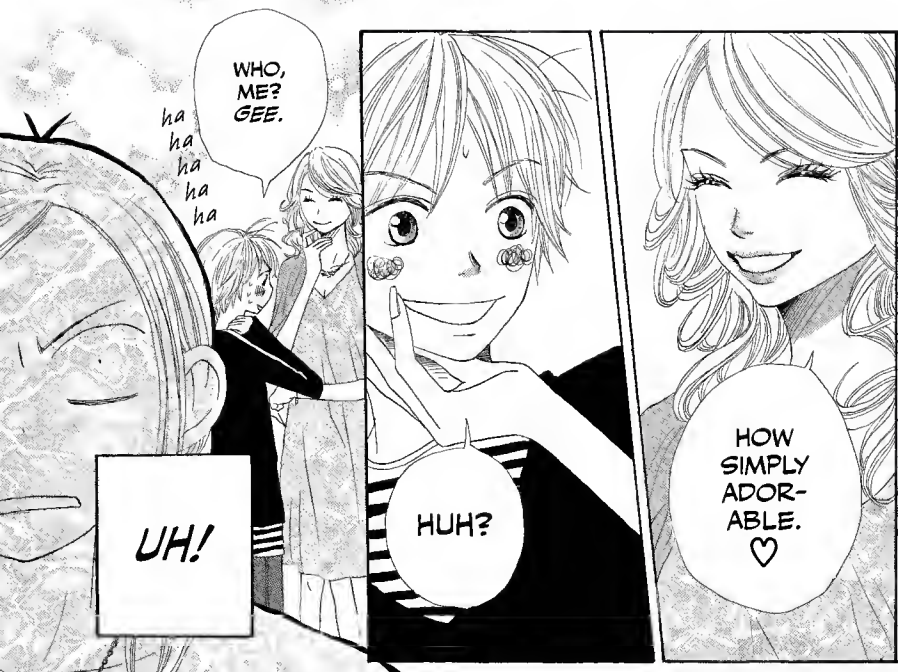
HIS WIFE'S
PRETTY
PERFECT FOR
HIM, THOUGH.
SHE'S SO
GLAMOROUS.

NO
WAY!











SO.
WE GO
WEAK
AT THE
KNEES FOR
BEAUTIFUL
OLDER
WOMEN,
DO WE?

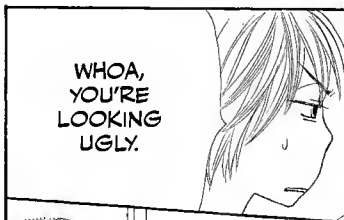
THIS
IS OUR
CHANCE
TO MAKE
A RUN
FOR...

HEY.
KOIZUMI.

P667

SO WHAT'S
THIS PLACE
ALL ABOUT?
WHAT DO
YOU DO
HERE?

YOU
GET TO
HAVE YOUR
PICTURE
TAKEN
WITH LORD
MIGHTY!



WHOA,
YOU'RE
LOOKING
UGLY.



A hidden
side of you
I didn't know
until a few
minutes ago.



...HUH?
RISA...?



G
W
P

THIS IS
WHAT I
HAPPEN
TO
LOOK-

WHAT-
EVER,
NOW
LET'S
GO!



blah

blah

blah



OH.
GOT
IT.

THAT DOOFUS
IS TOTALLY
USELESS, SO
WE FIRED HIM AS
CLUB LEADER.
IT WAS THE
BAKING CLUB
COUP D'ÉTAT!
♡

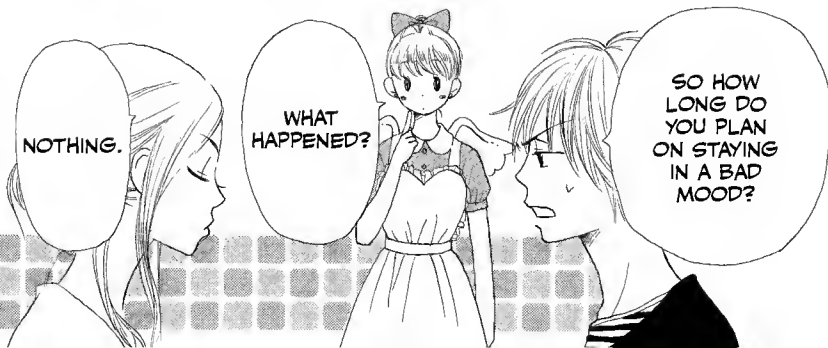
SO
YOU'RE
RUNNING
THE CAFÉ
THIS YEAR,
SEIKO?



I'LL
LET YOU
KNOW
WHEN THAT
BIG TWIT
SHOWS UP.

RELAX
AND
ENJOY
YOUR-
SELVES.

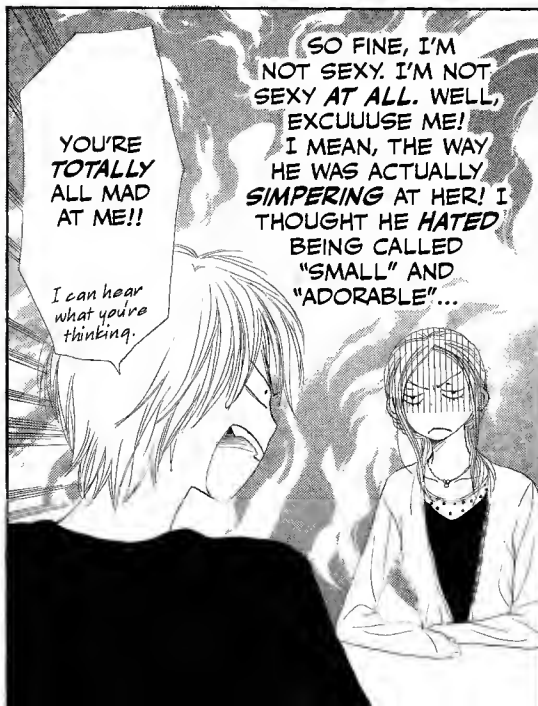
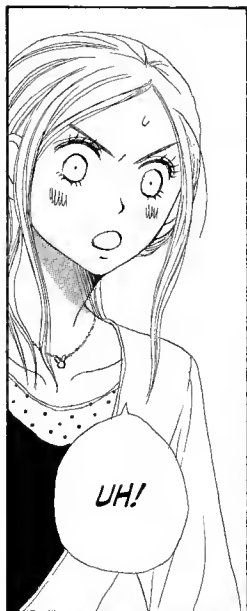
WELCOME!
SO NICE
TO SEE
YOU HERE!
♡



NOTHING.

WHAT
HAPPENED?

SO HOW
LONG DO
YOU PLAN
ON STAYING
IN A BAD
MOOD?





Grrr...art art art art!
Nyaaawww!!

That's a cat-and-dog
fight. Heh heh.

The way I treat this
column, jeez. It's like
when you're talking on
the phone and doodling
on a piece of paper.

How about some words
on this story or the
characters, please?

Like a professional
manga artist.

Nah... can't do it.

That kinda thing really
embarrasses me, sorry.

Lately when I go places
for work, or even not
for work, I'm lucky
enough to have people
come up and ask me
for an autograph.

Sometimes I draw a
little picture for them
too, but if you're
going to be one of
those people, prepare
to be shocked.

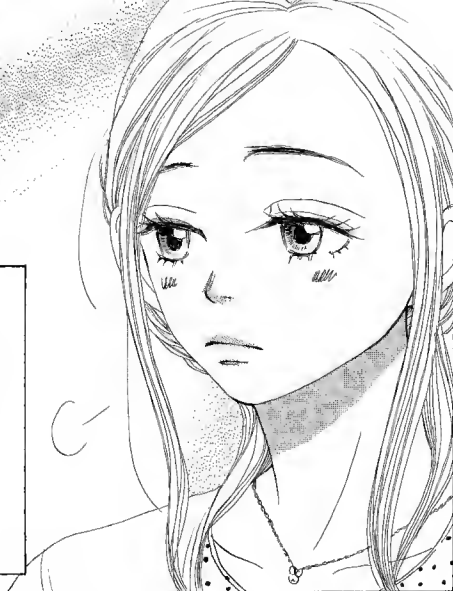
At how bad I draw.

If I don't have a sketch
to work with and have
to dash off a picture
just like that, it comes
out looking like anybody
could've drawn it.

I can't draw unless I'm
facing a desk and really
working on it. And even
then I'm pretty bad.

Basically, I cannot draw
in front of anybody.
That kinda thing really
embarrasses me,
sorry...

...OKAY,
LET'S
SNAP
OUT
OF IT.



AND
WHAT'S
WITH THIS
SUDDEN
ABOUT-
FACE?!
THAT WAS
QUICK!!

SO HEY,
WHERE DO
YOU WANT
TO GO
NEXT?

HERE WE
FINALLY
MANAGED
TO BE
ALONE
TOGETHER.
I DON'T
WANT TO
WASTE TIME
FIGHTING.

HEY!

THERE
HE IS!
I FOUND
ÔTANI
SENPAI,
YOU
GUYS!!



GWIP

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
THAT RIGHT
NOW,
SENPAI?
WE NEED
YOU TO
COME
HELP OUT!

WE
DON'T
HAVE
ENOUGH
PEOPLE!!

THEY'RE
FROM THE
BASKET-
BALL
TEAM...

WHAT'S UP?

WE WERE
LOOKING
ALL *OVER*
THE PLACE
FOR YOU!

WHO'RE THEY?

...WELL...

FLK

WE'RE
KIND OF
IN A HUGE
HURRY,
SENPAI!

WAIT A
SEC.

HUH?
WHAT'S
THE TEAM
DOING
THIS
YEAR?

YOU'LL
FIND OUT
WHEN
WE GET
THERE,
OKAY?!



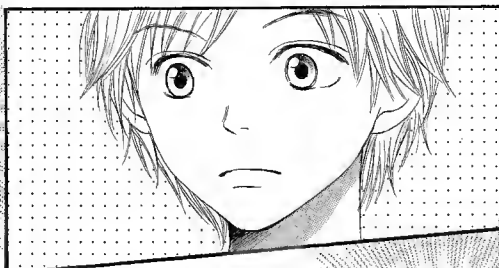
WELL,
IF IT'S
GOTTA
BE ME,
I GUESS
I GOTTA
GO, HUH?

YAAAY!!



YEAH,
SENPAI!!
IT'S
GOTTA
BE
YOU!!

IT'S
GOTTA
BE YOU,
ÔTANI
SENPAI!!
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN DO
IT!!



BUT...

IT'S
JUST FOR
A WHILE.
THEY
REALLY
NEED ME
OVER
THERE!

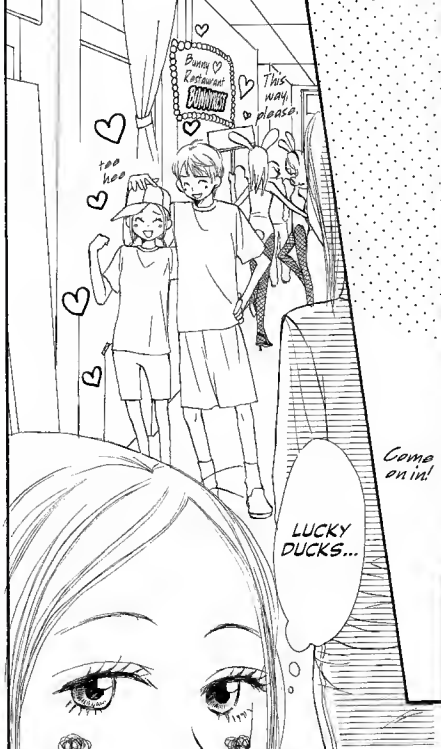


EXCUSE
ME?!

KWATZ

SORRY,
KOIZUMI!

HANG ON
JUST A
MINUTE,
ÔTANI...!

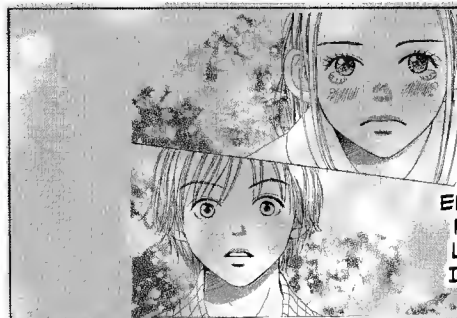


I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS...



WHAT A TOTAL DRAG...

WE JUST CAN'T SEEM
TO GET ANY TIME
ALONE TOGETHER...



OUR SECOND
YEAR, I WAS
MAD AT HIM
ALL DAY AND
ENDED UP YELL-
ING AT HIM TO
LET HIM KNOW
I HAD A CRUSH
ON HIM.

OUR FIRST
YEAR HERE,
I DIDN'T
EVEN LIKE
ÔTANI.

HUH?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ÔTANI?

OH. HI,
RISA!
DID YOU
HAVE
FUN?

NOW THIS IS
OUR THIRD
AND LAST
STUDENT
FESTIVAL,
AND I WAS
HOPING
WE WOULD
FINALLY HAVE
SOME GOOD
MEMORIES
TOGETHER.

¥200,
and I'll
throw
this one
in for
free!

He went
off to
help the
basketball
team...

THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM'S
RUNNING A
DRAG CAFÉ
THIS YEAR.

HEH?

HE
WENT OFF
VOLUN-
TARILY?!
OR DID THEY
TIE HIM UP
FIRST?

WHAT
?!

BABY
REALLY
WANTED
TO GO HELP
OUT, BUT I
MANAGED TO
TALK HIM
OUT OF IT.

MAYBE HE
DISCOVERED
HE LIKED IT.

*Like
I did.*

WONDER
HOW
OTANI'S
DOING
OVER
THERE...

HUH?

THEY'RE
DRESSING
UP AS GIRLS.
SO WHY WOULD
OTANI GO? WE
HAD TO *WRESTLE*
HIM INTO THAT
CHEERLEADER'S
OUTFIT LAST
YEAR.

W
H
A
M

hff

HELP!

HELP
ME,
DUDES!!



Hee
hee
hee

Ah
ha
ha

RRRIIP

FWAP

GRRRR

PFFFT...!

DON'T
START!!
'CUZ
THIS IS
NOT
FUNNY!!

HEY,
DON'T
TAKE
IT OFF!
AWW, IT
LOOKED
SO GOOD
ON YOU!

STOP
LAUGH-
ING AT
ME!!



SHWA

Y
U
P
M

HERE
HE
IS! I
FOUND
HIM!

ÔTANI
SENPAI'S
IN HERE!



THE
DIFFERENCE
IS I WAS
FORCED
TO WEAR
THAT AND
I'M NOT
BEING
FORCED
TO WEAR
THIS!!

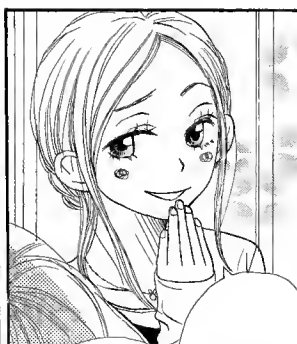
YOU
WORE
THAT
CHEER-
LEADER'S
OUTFIT
LAST
YEAR! SO
WHY CAN'T
YOU WEAR
THIS CHINA
GIRL
DRESS?!

COME
ON,
SENPAI,
PUT
THIS
ON!!

WHAT'S
THE
DIFFER-
ENCE?!

NO WAY,
DUDE!
GET
OUTTA
HERE!!





**NOW!!
LET'S
GRAB
HIM!!**

OKAY,
THAT'S
IT, YOU
ARE...

BETCHA IF
MRS. MIGHTY
SEES YOU
IN IT, SHE'LL
CALL YOU
"ADORABLE"
AGAIN.

WHY
DON'T
YOU
JUST
PUT
IT ON,
ÔTANI?



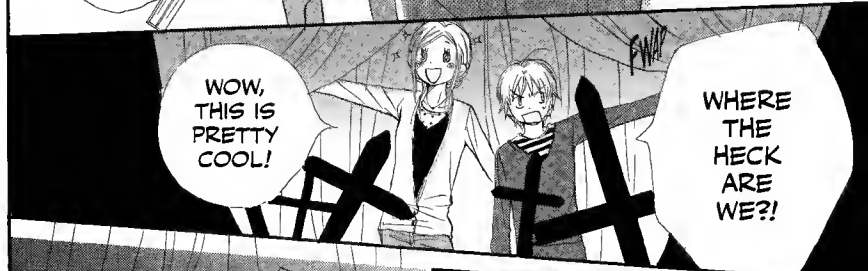
**RUN
FOR
IT!!**

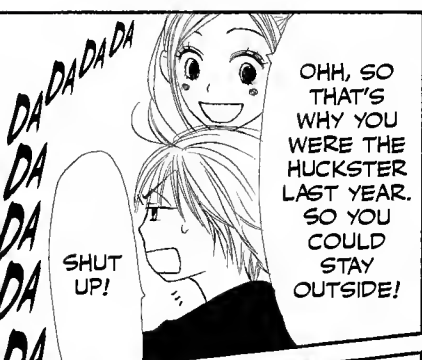
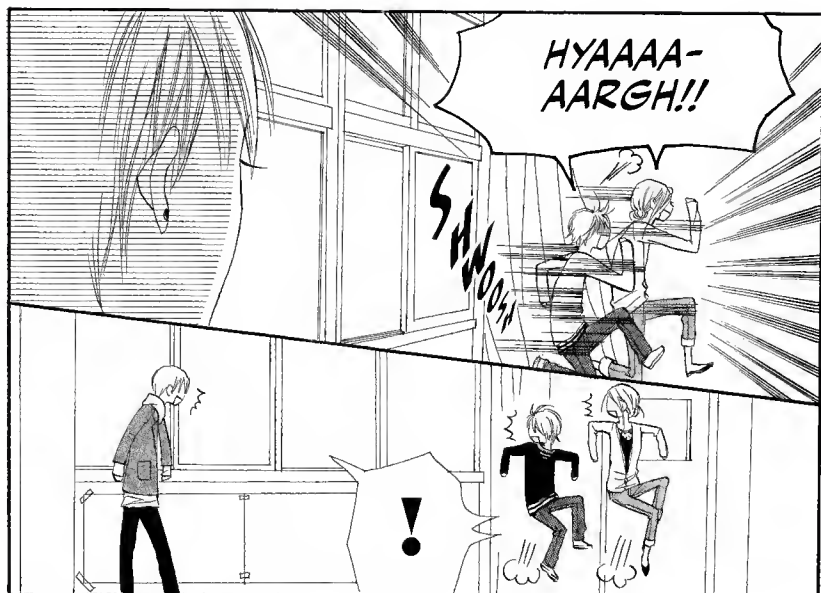
DASH

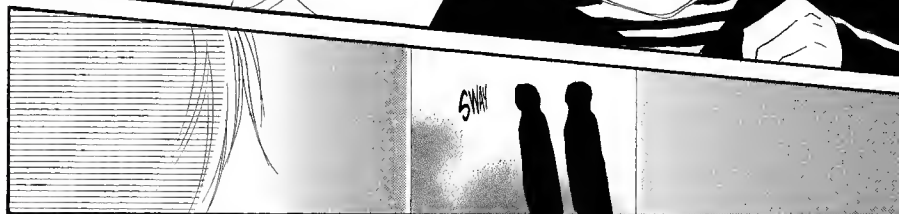
GWP

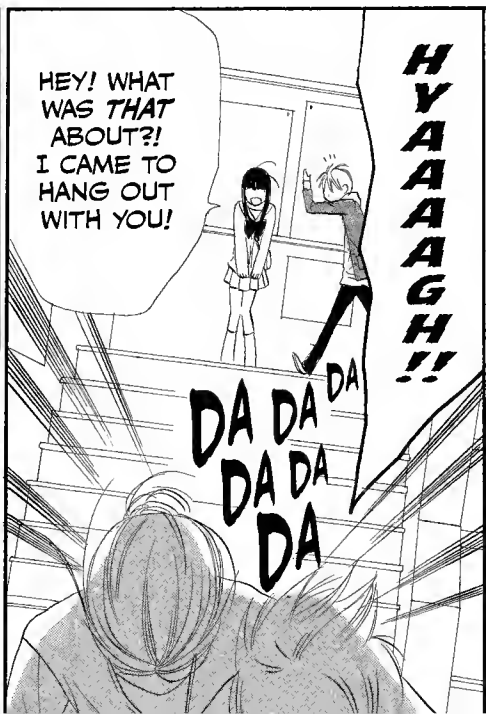
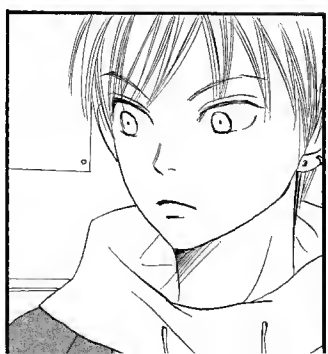
**WHA
...?!**











WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?!

DON'T
FOLLOW ME
AROUND,
CREEPAZOID!

I'M NOT
FOLLOWING
YOU, I'M
CHASING
RISA!!

SO DON'T
FLATTER
YOURSELF,
SNOTNOSE!

CRUSHED

YUCK!

DASH

Salesman

NICE TO
MEETCHA.

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

ULP

...WHAT
ARE WE
DOING?

WE
TOTALLY
WENT,
"GYAAGH"
WHEN WE
SAW HER
TOO!!

OH
WELL.
TOO
BAD!!

WHAT?!

NO
WAY!

WAIT A
MINUTE!
WASN'T
THAT
MIMI-CHAN
BACK
THERE?!

I
KNOW,
ME
TOO.

ha
ha
ha

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?
THIS IS
STARTING
TO CRACK
ME UP.

PFFFT!

THIS IS
TOTALLY
RIDICULOUS.

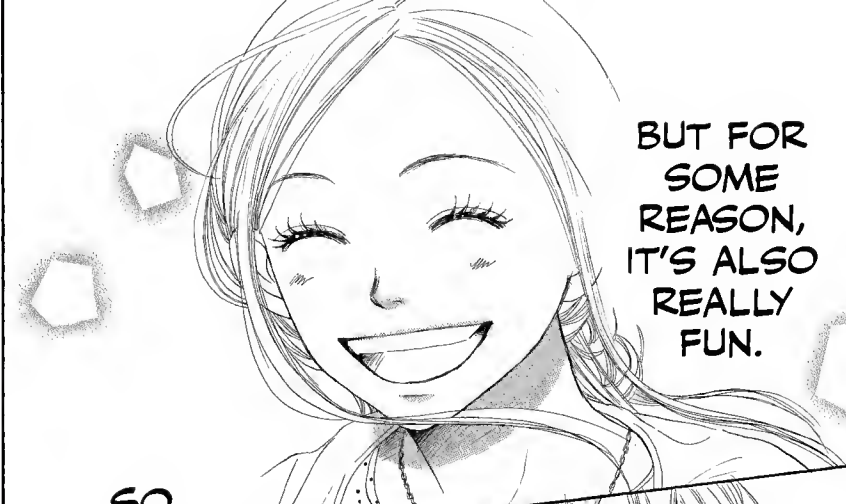
I MEAN,
FINALLY
WE'RE
ALONE
TOGETHER,
AND...

LIKE, I
DON'T
REMEMBER
ENTERING A
MARATHON?

THIS IS
REALLY
STUPID.

I KNOW,
WE'VE
BEEN
RUNNING
AROUND
ALL DAY!

LIKE, THIS
IS THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL,
NOT
TRACK-
AND-FIELD
DAY!



BUT FOR
SOME
REASON,
IT'S ALSO
REALLY
FUN.

SO
FUN I
WISH...



...WE
COULD
JUST
KEEP
RUNNING
AWAY
LIKE
THIS
FOR-
EVER.

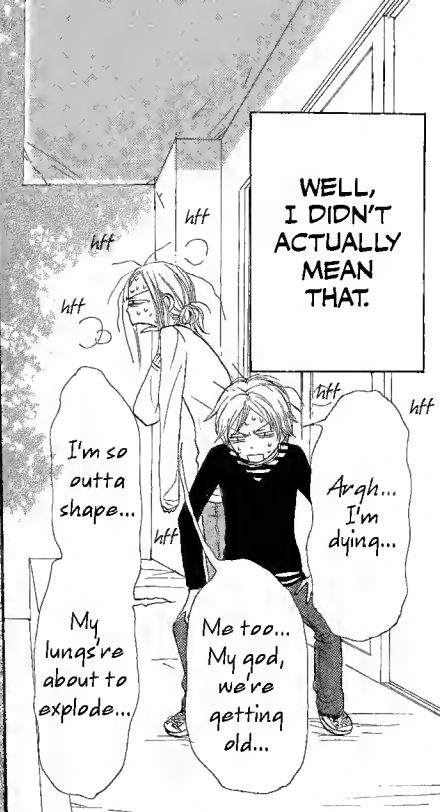


I
KNOW!

ha
ha
ha

PLUS WE
DIDN'T
GET TO
SEE ANY-
THING.

BUT I
HAD A
GREAT
TIME
ANYWAY!



WELL,
I DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
MEAN
THAT.

I'm so
outta
shape...

Argh...
I'm
dying...

My
lungs're
about to
explode...

Me too...
My god,
we're
getting
old...



YEAH.
ME
TOO.

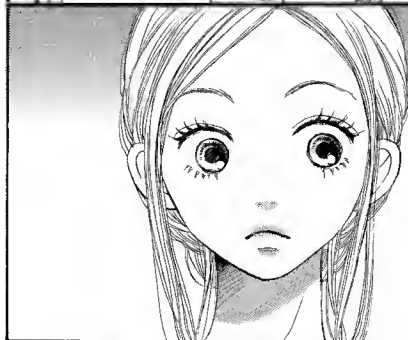




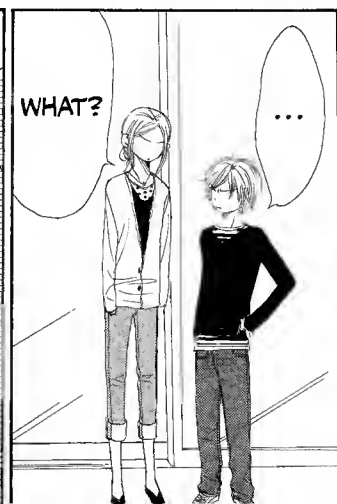
YEAH,
GUESS
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME WE
GOT
BACK...



GUESS WE
BETTER HEAD
BACK TO THE
CLASSROOM
SOON TO HELP
OUT AT THE
RUMMAGE SALE,
OR NOBU WILL
GET REALLY
MAD AT US...

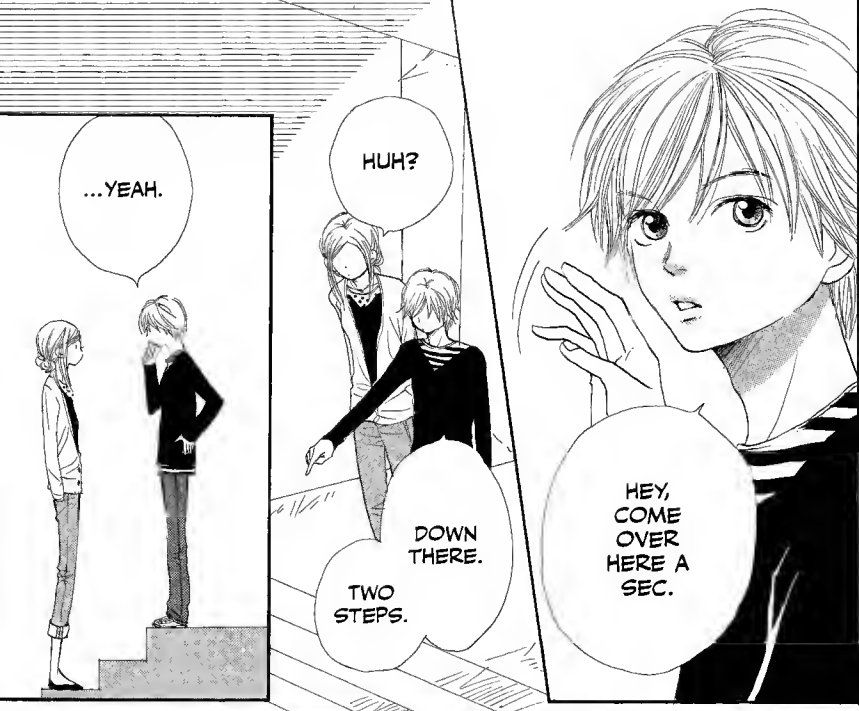


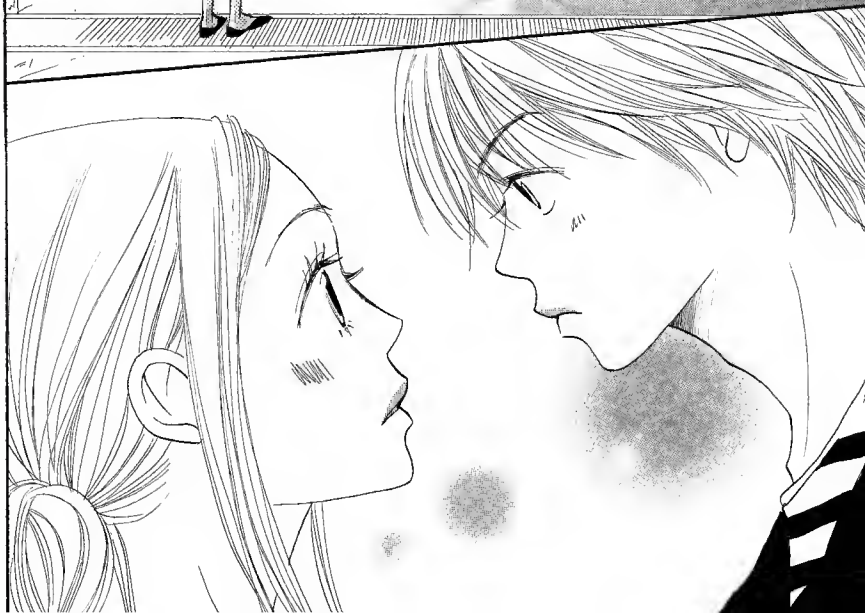
GLANCE

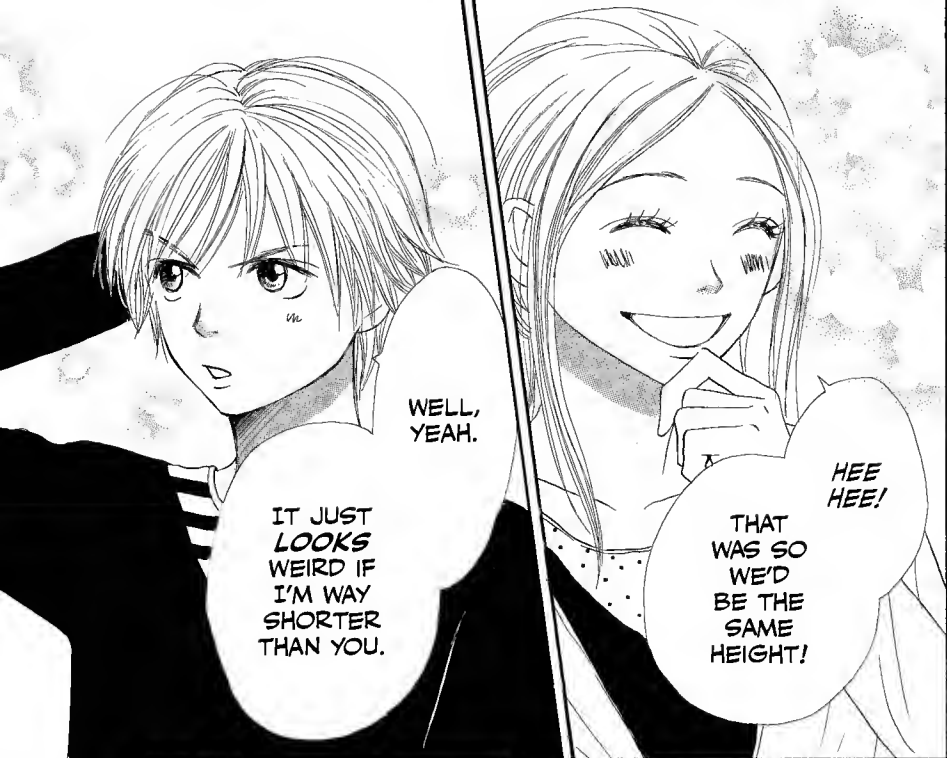


WHAT?

...







WELL,
YEAH.

IT JUST
LOOKS
WEIRD IF
I'M WAY
SHORTER
THAN YOU.

HEE
HEE!

THAT
WAS SO
WE'D
BE THE
SAME
HEIGHT!



COME
ON,
LET'S
GO.

heh
heh

You're
late!

I WANT
US TO BE
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS
ALL THE
TIME.

FACULTY

I WANT
THE TWO
OF US TO
ALWAYS
STAY
JUST LIKE
THIS.

I
LOVE
YOU.
♡

HEY,
OTANI.

WHAT.

YA
DOPE.

I DO,
THOUGH.
I REALLY
DO.





OH.
I SEE.

YEAH.
ÔTANI
SAYS HE'S
GOING TO
APPLY TO
UNIVERSITY
...

SO
THEY'LL
BE
GOING
THEIR
SEPARATE
WAYS.

WHILE
KOIZUMI'S
PLANNING
TO ENTER
A VOCA-
TIONAL
COLLEGE.



AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE THAT'S
IT FOR ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN.

YOU
MEAN
RISA
KOIZUMI
AND
ATSUSHI
ÔTANI?



Ha
ha
ha

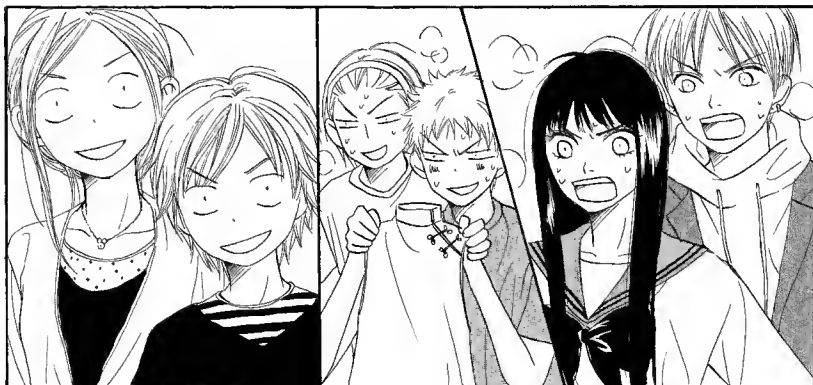
WONDER
WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN WITH
THOSE TWO
AFTER THEY
GRADUATE
FROM HERE.

And
then
she...



BUT CAN
ÔTANI-KUN
EVEN
GET INTO
UNIVERSITY?

...HE CAN
PROBABLY
SCRAPE
BY IF HE
TRIES,
KNOCK ON
WOOD.



ALL I WANT
IS TO STAY
TOGETHER
WITH ÔTANI
FOREVER
AND EVER.







ALL
WE DID
AT THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL
...

...WAS
RUN
AROUND
LIKE
CRAZY.
AND THEN
IT WAS
OVER.

CHAPTER 35



AND I
EVEN GOT
AN UNEX-
PECTED
LITTLE
BONUS.

Nmm...

BUT I
HAD A
REALLY
GREAT
TIME
ANYWAY.

OH,
NOTHING
SPECIAL.

I WAS JUST
REMEM-
BERING THE
STUDENT
FESTIVAL
AND HOW
MUCH FUN
IT WAS.

DID
SOME-
THING
REALLY
GOOD
HAPPEN
TO YOU,
RISA?

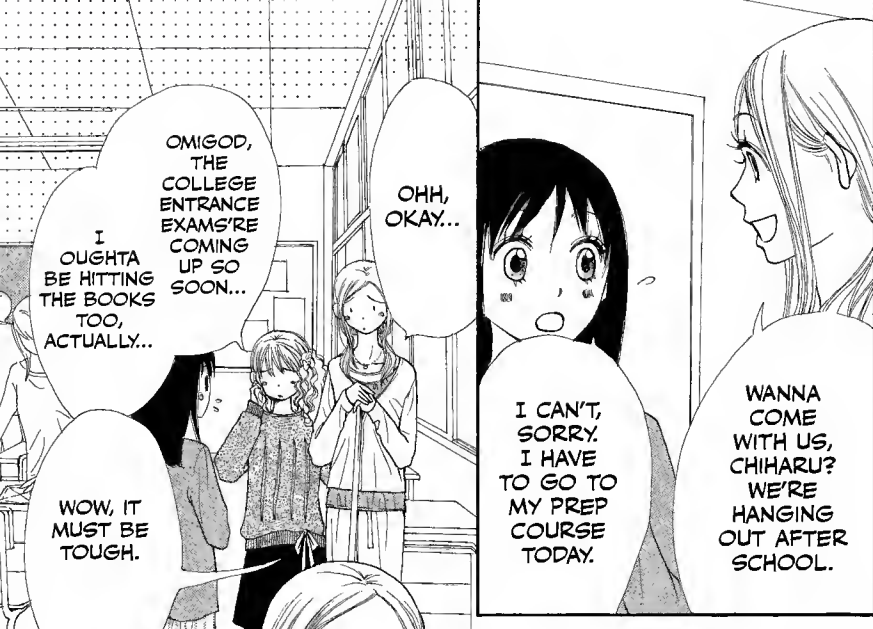
HEY...

I TOLD YOU,
NOBU, I'M
REALLY SORRY
ABOUT THAT.
COME ON,
I ALREADY
PROMISED TO
TREAT YOU
TODAY TO
MAKE UP
FOR IT.

OH YEAH.
GOOD TIMES.
NOT THAT I'D
KNOW, SEEING
HOW I WAS
**STUCK AT OUR
RUMMAGE
SALE WITH
NOBODY TO
TAKE OVER
FOR ME.**

I HAVE NO
PROBLEM WITH
YOU GETTING
ALL LOST IN
YOUR MEMORIES,
BUT WHY CAN'T
YOU LOOK A
LITTLE CUTER
WHILE YOU'RE
DOING IT?

HUH?



I
OUGHTA
BE HITTING
THE BOOKS
TOO,
ACTUALLY...

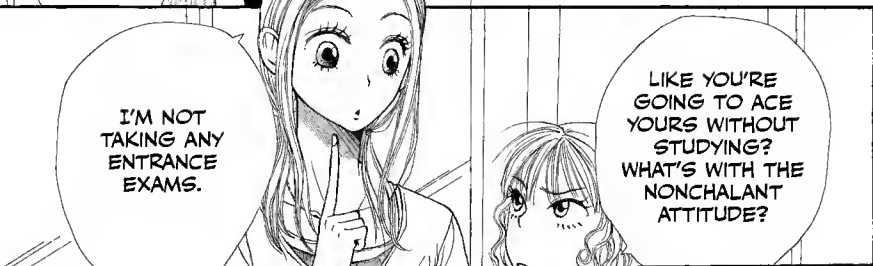
OMIGOD,
THE
COLLEGE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS'RE
COMING
UP SO
SOON...

OHH,
OKAY...

WOW, IT
MUST BE
TOUGH.

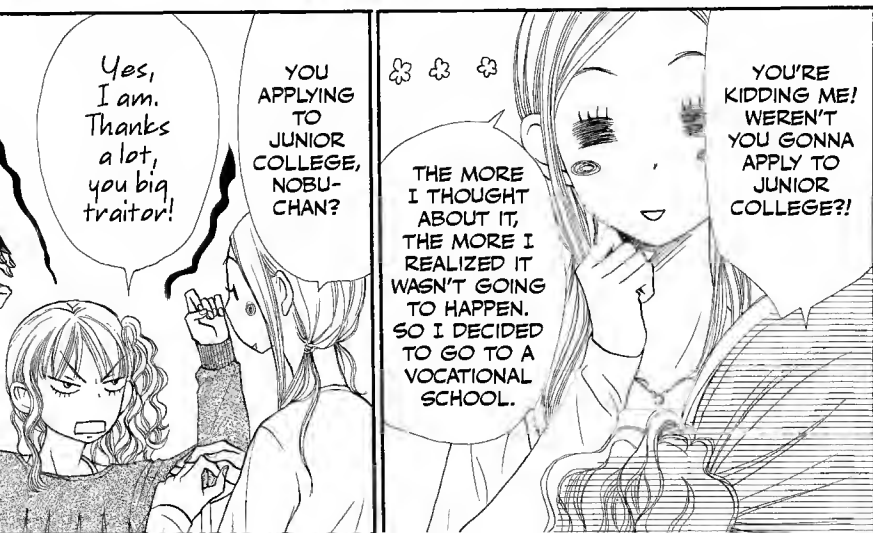
I CAN'T,
SORRY.
I HAVE
TO GO TO
MY PREP
COURSE
TODAY.

WANNA
COME
WITH US,
CHIHARU?
WE'RE
HANGING
OUT AFTER
SCHOOL.



I'M NOT
TAKING ANY
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

LIKE YOU'RE
GOING TO ACE
YOURS WITHOUT
STUDYING?
WHAT'S WITH THE
NONCHALANT
ATTITUDE?

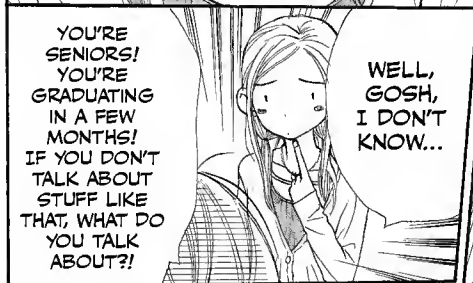
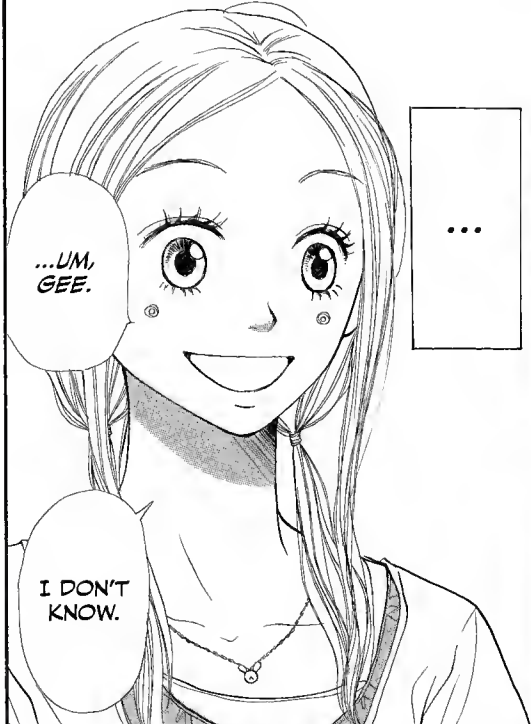


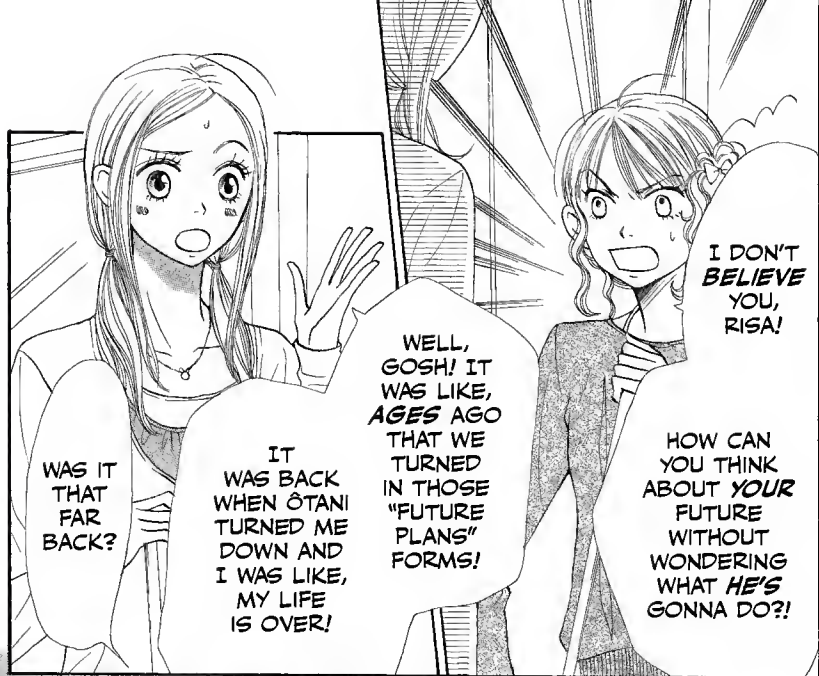
Yes,
I am.
Thanks
a lot,
you big
traitor!

YOU
APPLYING
TO
JUNIOR
COLLEGE,
NOBU-
CHAN?

✿ ✿ ✿
THE MORE
I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT,
THE MORE I
REALIZED IT
WASN'T GOING
TO HAPPEN.
SO I DECIDED
TO GO TO A
VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL.

YOU'RE
KIDDING ME!
WEREN'T
YOU GONNA
APPLY TO
JUNIOR
COLLEGE?!





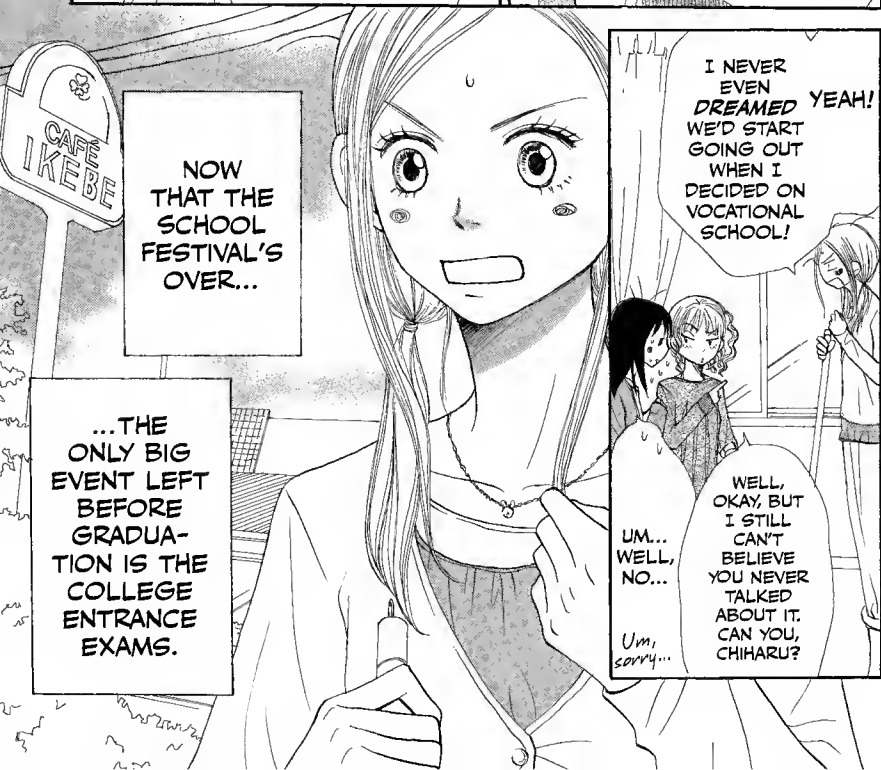
WAS IT
THAT
FAR
BACK?

IT
WAS BACK
WHEN ÔTANI
TURNED ME
DOWN AND
I WAS LIKE,
MY LIFE
IS OVER!

WELL,
GOSH! IT
WAS LIKE,
AGES AGO
THAT WE
TURNED
IN THOSE
"FUTURE
PLANS"
FORMS!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
YOU,
RISA!

HOW CAN
YOU THINK
ABOUT *YOUR*
FUTURE
WITHOUT
WONDERING
WHAT *HE'S*
GONNA DO?!



NOW
THAT THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL'S
OVER...

...THE
ONLY BIG
EVENT LEFT
BEFORE
GRADUA-
TION IS THE
COLLEGE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

I NEVER
EVEN
DREAMED YEAH!
WE'D START
GOING OUT
WHEN I
DECIDED ON
VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL!

UM...
WELL,
NO...

Um,
sorry...

WELL,
OKAY, BUT
I STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU NEVER
TALKED
ABOUT IT.
CAN YOU,
CHIHARU?

I'M
TOTALLY
GOING TO
COLLEGE,
MAN.

LIKE,
UNIVERSITY.

WE ALWAYS
HAD ALL
KINDS OF
OTHER
STUFF TO
DEAL WITH,
I GUESS.

THE
SUBJECT
OF LIFE
AFTER
GRADUA-
TION JUST
NEVER
CAME UP.

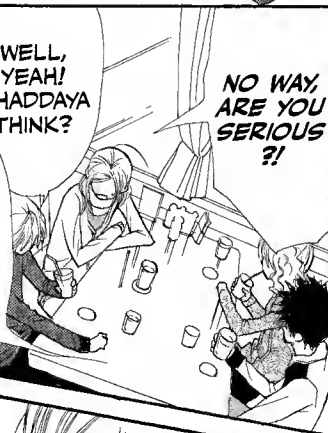


WELL,
YEAH!
WHADDDAYA
THINK?

NO WAY,
ARE YOU
SERIOUS
?!

OH, WOW.
SO YOU
REALLY
WERE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THAT?

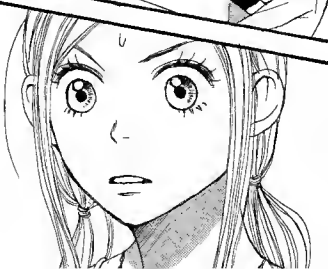
YEAH.



W H A A A A A T ?!

**UNIVER-
SITYYYY?!**

WELL,
YEAH!
WHAT'S
WITH THIS
REACTION?!



AND THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO PREP SCHOOL FOR A WHOLE YEAR BEFORE YOU TRY AGAIN. THAT COSTS TOO, YOU KNOW?

I KNOW ABOUT THE FEE!!

PLUS, THOSE EXAMS COST MONEY. YOU HAVE TO PAY A FEE. AND THEN YOU DON'T GET IN?

OH YEAH? WHAT MAKES YOU SO DARN SURE?

...BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D EVER BE ACCEPTED.

HEY...

MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO THINK THIS OVER BEFORE YOU WASTE A WHOLE LOTTA TIME AND MONEY, YOU KNOW?

YOU WOULD, RIGHT?

IF I WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, I'D TRY TO STOP YOU TOO.

WELL, YOU CAN'T BLAME HER, ÔTANI.

WELL, JEEZ... THE "WOW, ÔTANI" PART IS EASY, 'CUZ I'M TOTALLY AMAZED BY YOUR DECISION TO ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE... BUT "I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT"?' I'D BE LYING.

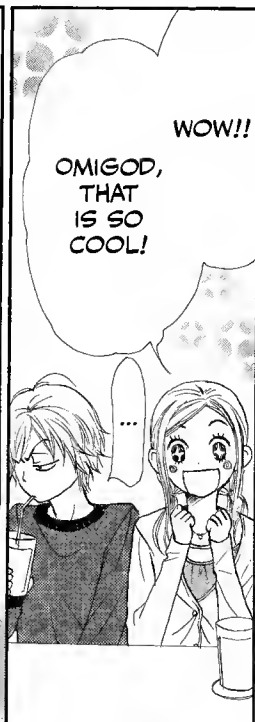
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT!! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SAY, "WOW, ÔTANI! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!"? HUH?!

SORRY, DUDE, BUT I WOULD TOO.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

WELL, I'D BE LYING IF I SAID YOU DON'T **TOTALLY PISS ME OFF!!**





WOW...



DON'T
SAY
"WE,"
YOU
DOPE!!

YOU
HAVEN'T
THOUGHT
ABOUT
IT
AT ALL!
I HAVE!!

I GUESS
WE'RE
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
HAVEN'T
THOUGHT
ABOUT
THAT STUFF
AT ALL...



EVERY-
ONE'S
TOTALLY
THINKING
ABOUT
THEIR
FUTURE
...

LIKE, CHIHARU
SAID SHE AND
SUZUKI ARE
STUDYING
REALLY HARD
TO GET INTO
THE SAME
UNIVERSITY AND
EVERYTHING.



...I'D
FIGURE
THAT
OUT AS
I WENT
ALONG.

WELL, YOU
KNOW, I
THOUGHT...

Oh, god.
That is
pathetic.

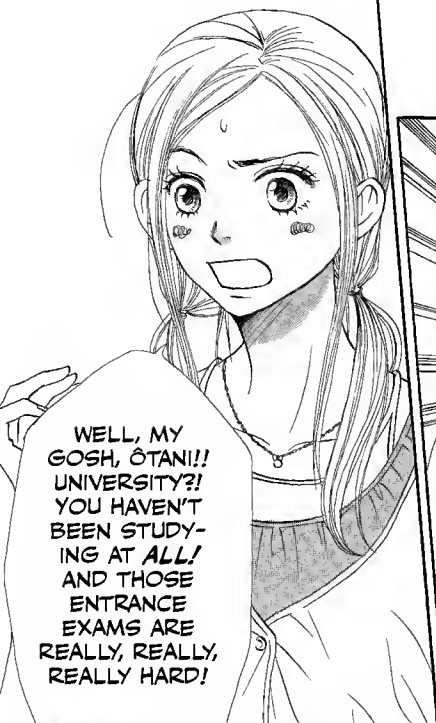
HUH?

I MEAN,
VOC-
ATIONAL
SCHOOL?
WHAT'S
THE Voca-
TION?!

SO WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA
DO,
ANYWAY?!



DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
PITYING
LOOK!!



WELL, MY
GOSH, ÔTANI!!
UNIVERSITY?!
YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN STUDY-
ING AT **ALL!**
AND THOSE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS ARE
REALLY, REALLY,
REALLY HARD!



WHO
SAYS IT'S
TOTALLY
UNREACH-
ABLE?!

WELL,
IT'S NOT
AS PATHETIC
AS GOING
AFTER SOME
TOTALLY
UNREACH-
ABLE GOAL
THE WAY
YOU ARE!



I WAS
TOO
BUSY
THINKING
ABOUT
YOU ALL
THE
TIME...!

WELL,
I DIDN'T
HAVE THE
TIME TO
STUDY THE
PAST FEW
MONTHS,
DID I?!



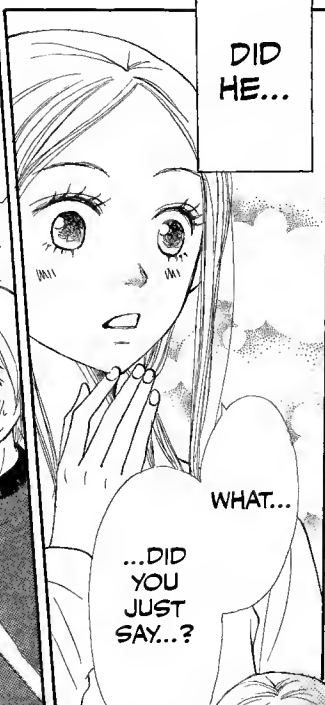
NOW
IS JUST
WAY TOO
LATE!!

SO I'M
GONNA
START
STUDY-
ING FOR
THEM!!

IF YOU
WANNA
PASS
THOSE
EXAMS, YOU
HAVE TO
STUDY FOR
MONTHS IN
ADVANCE!!



UH...!
I
DIDN'T...
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT!!

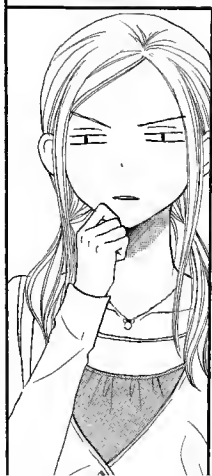


DID
HE...

WHAT...
...DID
YOU
JUST
SAY...?



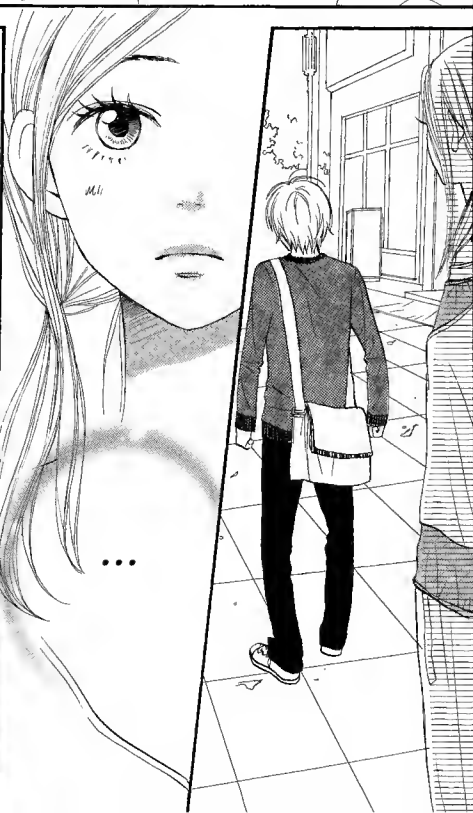
...WHAT?



AND
THAT'S
WHY HE
COULDN'T
DO ANY
STUDY-
ING...



WOW...HE
WAS REALLY
THINKING
ABOUT ME,
LIKE REALLY
SERIOUSLY...





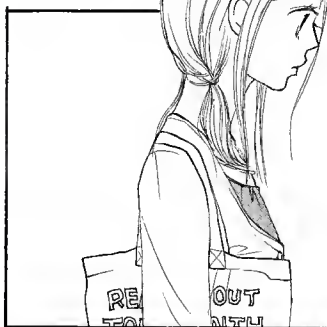
**I AM NOT
GOING
TO BE
BUMMED
OUT!!**

**I'M NOT
GONNA
HAVE ANY
REASON
TO BE
BUMMED
OUT, 'CUZ
I'M PASSING
THE EXAMS,
JEEZ!!**



**WELL,
GOSH, I
DON'T WANT
TO MAKE YOU
FEEL WORSE
WHEN YOU'RE
ALREADY
BUMMED
OUT.**

**YOU
REALLY
PISS ME
OFF, YOU
KNOW
THAT?!**



**LOOK, YOU
JUST PRACTICE
SAYING, "I
KNOW YOU CAN
DO IT ♥" AND
"CONGRATU-
LATIONS ♥!"
YOU GOT
THAT?!**



...ÔTANI...



**PISSING
ME OFF!
YOU AND
ALL THE
REST OF
THEM!**

BUT I
REALLY
THINK IT'S
KINDA
HOPE-
LESS. I
REALLY
DO...

I'M
SORRY...



AND YOU
THINK
YOU'LL
GET INTO
COLLEGE.
LIKE,
DREAM
ON.

HANG
ON! I'M
WORKING
ON IT!!

IF YOU
HAVE
NO IDEA,
FINE.
JUST SIT
DOWN.

I MEAN,
LET'S
FACE IT,
YOU'RE
TOTALLY
STUPID...



JEEZ,
WOW.
YOU'RE
REALLY
GONNA
TRY?

THERE'S
NO WAY,
DUDE.
JUST
GIVE
IT UP!

YEAH,
AND HE'LL
KEEP
TRYING,
YEAR
AFTER
YEAR!



WELL,
I'M NOT
TRYING TO
GET INTO
COLLEGE,
SO WHO
CARES?!

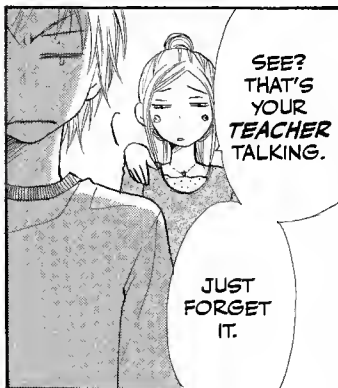
LIKE
YOU'RE SO
SMART?
YOU CAN'T
DO IT
EITHER!

What?!
You trying
to get into
college,
Ôtani?!



YOU
WON'T
MAKE IT,
ÔTANI.

DUUUDES
...



SEE?
THAT'S
YOUR
TEACHER
TALKING.

JUST
FORGET
IT.



UNLESS
YOU
STUDY
ALL DAY,
EVERY
DAY,
AND ALL
NIGHT
TOO...

...YOU
WON'T
MAKE IT.

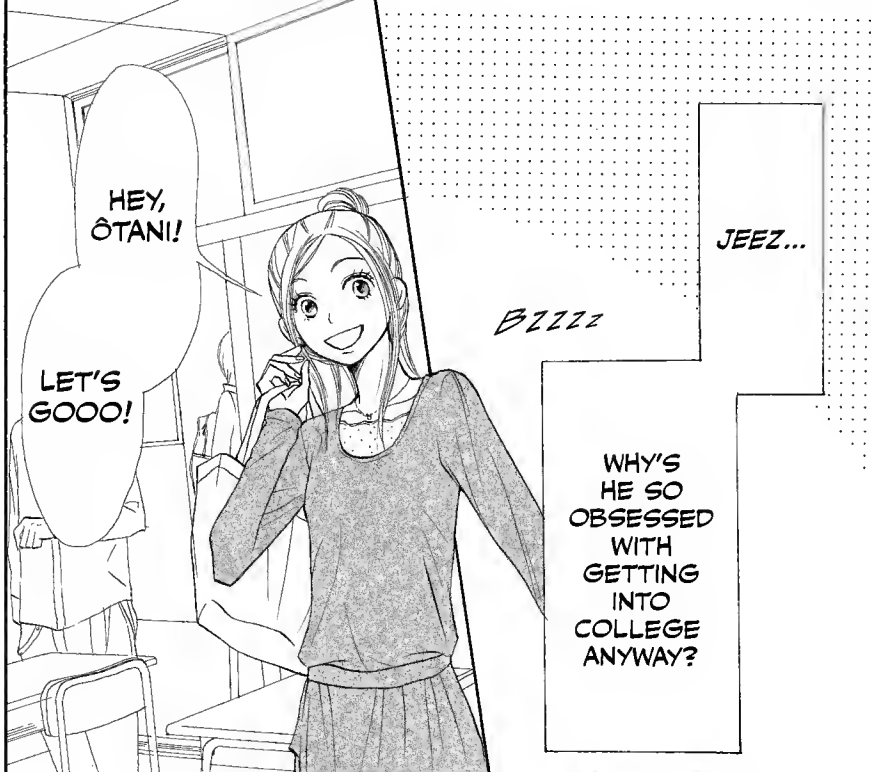
I'VE BEEN
TELLING
YOU THIS
FROM DAY
ONE.

!!

The thing about this space,
I generally only manage
to get serious around the
third one. And there's
only four of them in all.
ha ha ha ha
Sorry for being so goofy!
And yet goofy Nakahara-
san's manga, including this
one, are being translated
and published in such
countries as Korea, Taiwan,
Thailand and Indonesia.
How exciting!
I could hardly believe it,
but even all the little
handwritten bits and
sidebars like this one
are translated too.
And yet, gee... What do
readers find here...?
Stuff about poop... and
nipples... Gee, I'm sorry,
foreign readers...
Meanwhile I can't help
wondering if foreign
readers get the refer-
ences to Aki Hanshin-Kyōjin.
Apparently the Osaka
dialect of the original
Japanese is being
translated using provincial
dialects in each of those
countries. Now...

Korean Edition!





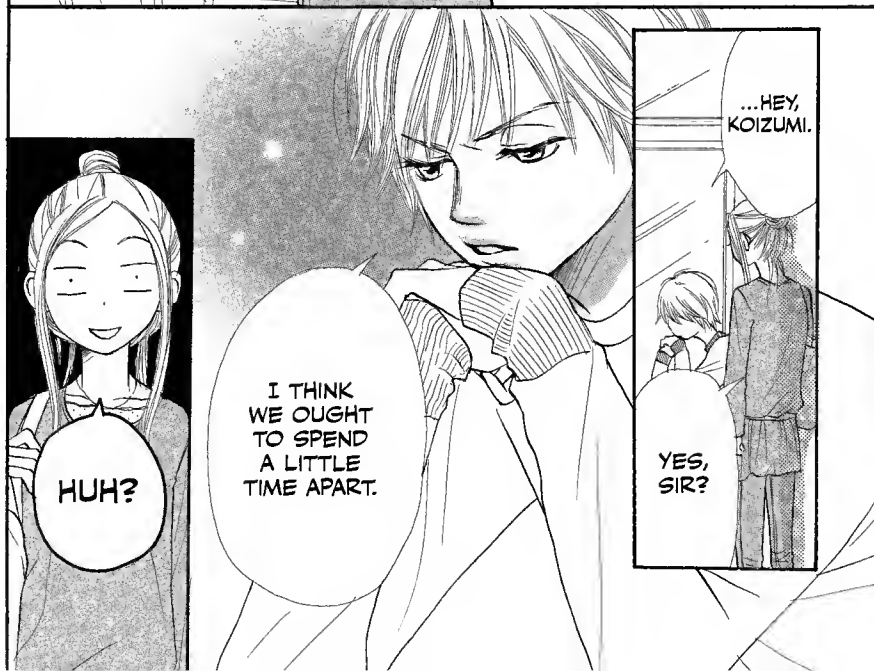
HEY,
ÔTANI!

LET'S
GOOO!

Bzzzz

JEEZ...

WHY'S
HE SO
OBSESSED
WITH
GETTING
INTO
COLLEGE
ANYWAY?



HUH?

I THINK
WE OUGHT
TO SPEND
A LITTLE
TIME APART.

...HEY,
KOIZUMI.

YES,
SIR?

I HAVE A
LOUDMOUTH
LIKE YOU
YAKKING
AWAY NEAR
ME, I CAN'T
CONCEN-
TRATE!!

I'M
SAYING!
I NEED
TO STUDY!
SO STAY
OUTTA MY
WAY!!

WAIT
A SEC.
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

DID I
SOUND
LIKE I WAS
JOKING?!!
YES, I'M
SERIOUS!!

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
WE'LL
SEE EACH
OTHER AT
SCHOOL
EVERY DAY.

SO I
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
SEE YOU
FOR A
WHILE.

I NEED TO
FOCUS ON
STUDYING
FOR THOSE
EXAMS.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT
TO DO, AND
I NEED A
COLLEGE
DEGREE
TO DO IT.

IT'S
NOT
JUST TO
PROVE A
POINT.

...JUST
BECAUSE
EVERYONE
SAYS YOU CAN'T
DO IT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU HAVE
TO SHOW THEM
YOU CAN. I MEAN,
WHY GO TO
COLLEGE JUST
TO PROVE
A POINT?

WHAAT?!
COME
ON,
OTANI,
TELL
MEEE!

WELL,
YOU'RE
NEVER
GONNA
FIND
OUT!!

SHUT UP!
AND GO
HOME BY
YOUR-
SELF!!

'CUZ
YOU'RE
THE LAST
PERSON
I'M
TELLING!!

WHAT'S
SO
FREAKIN'
FUNNY?!

YOU
DO?
WHAT
IS IT?

I DON'T
KNOW. IT
JUST IS.



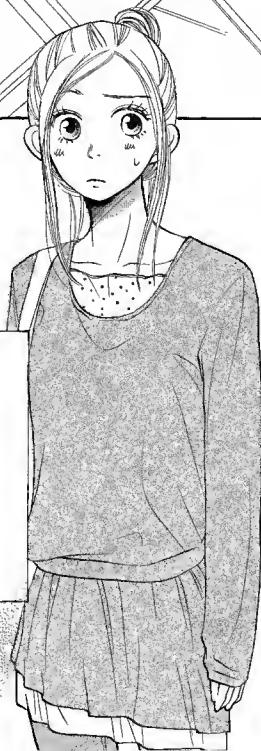
UH-UH.


Yeah.
HAS HE
TOLD
YOU
ABOUT
IT?

SOME-
THING HE
WANTS TO
DO? AND
NEEDS A
DEGREE
FOR?

I
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
HAVE
TAKEN HIM
SERIOUSLY
IF HE DID,
THOUGH.

...OH
JEEZ...





PLUS, YOU WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO GO OFF TO COLLEGE ANYWAY, WOULD YOU?


IT IS, ISN'T IT? SO I SHOULD TRY TO SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF, NOT CHEER HIM ON TO TOTAL DISASTER. FOR HIS OWN GOOD.



NO WAY. I MEAN, IT'S A LOST CAUSE FOR SURE.

AAARGH! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

YOU THINK I SHOULD CHEER HIM ON?



And then there'd be all these parties every weekend, where he'd meet hot babes by the dozen...and maybe start fooling around with one or two on the side.

URGH!

He'd be going to classes with all these people you don't know, many of them girls... And start telling you he needs to "study" with one of them.



HUH?

WELL, JUST THINK. WHAT IF HE ACTUALLY GOT IN, FOR SOME CRAZY REASON?



OMIGOD... THEY'RE RIGHT...

AND I'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BECAUSE JUNIOR COLLEGES ARE ALMOST ALL GIRLS.

I'M LUCKY THAT WAY. NO HOT BABES AT GRAMPY'S SWEETS SHOP.

OMIGOD!! I COULDN'T STAND IT!! I COULDN'T TAKE IT!!



BUT
ONCE WE
GRADUATE,
ALL OF
THAT'S
GOING TO
CHANGE.

...SO BEING
TOGETHER
ALL THE
TIME WAS
THE MOST
NORMAL
THING IN
THE WORLD.

SO FAR
WE'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN IN
THE SAME
CLASS AT
THE SAME
SCHOOL...



SIGH...

JUST
BECAUSE
I'M HIS
GIRLFRIEND
DOESN'T
MEAN I'D
GET TO BE
A PART OF
ALL THAT. I
WOULDN'T
FIT IN.

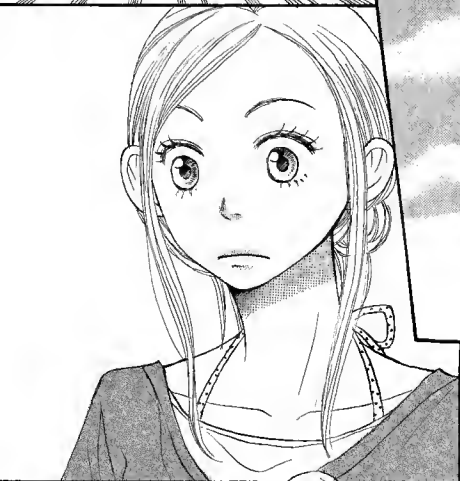


IF ÔTANI
REALLY
DOES
GO TO
COLLEGE...

PLUS
HE'LL
MEET
TONS
OF
PRETTY
GIRLS...

...HE'LL
MAKE ALL
THESE
NEW
FRIENDS,
AND I
WON'T
EVEN
KNOW
THEM.

WHUMP



PRACTICE
TESTS.

WHAT'S
THIS?

REFER-
ENCE
BOOKS.

AND...

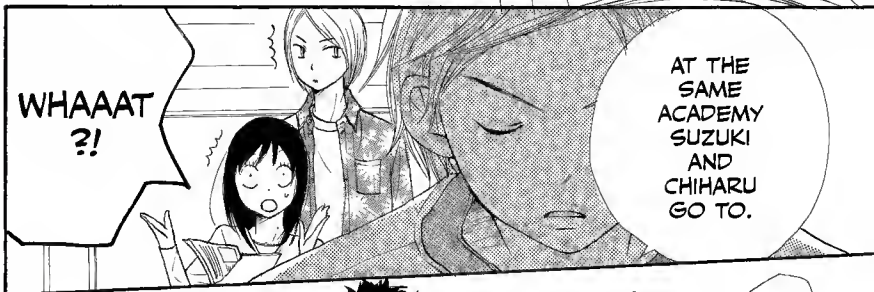
I NEVER
EVEN
REALIZED
THIS UNTIL
NOW, BUT...

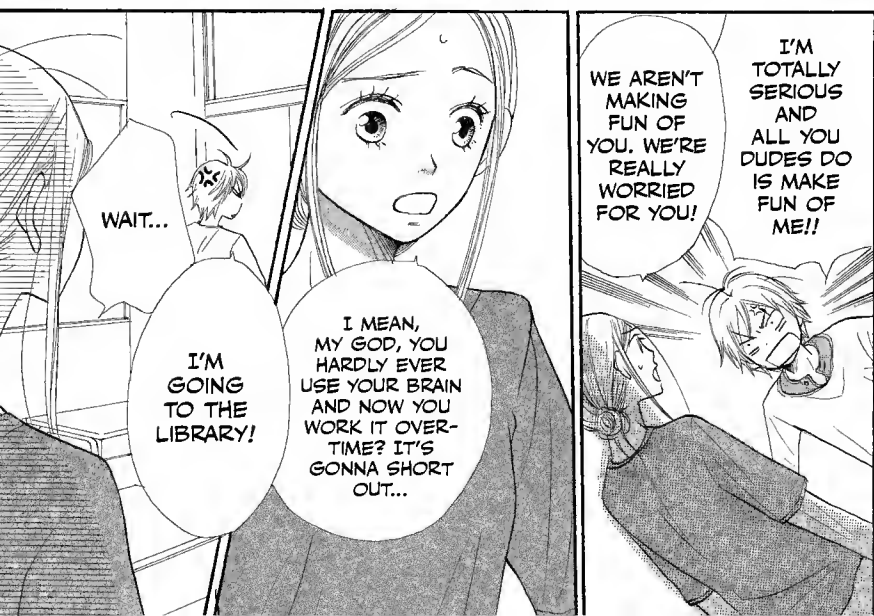
...I'VE BEEN
INCREDIBLY
LUCKY SO
FAR TO GET
TO BE WITH
ÔTANI ALL
THE TIME.



A
A
G
H!

WHAT AM
I GOING
TO DO?







...WHY
IS HE
DOING
THIS?

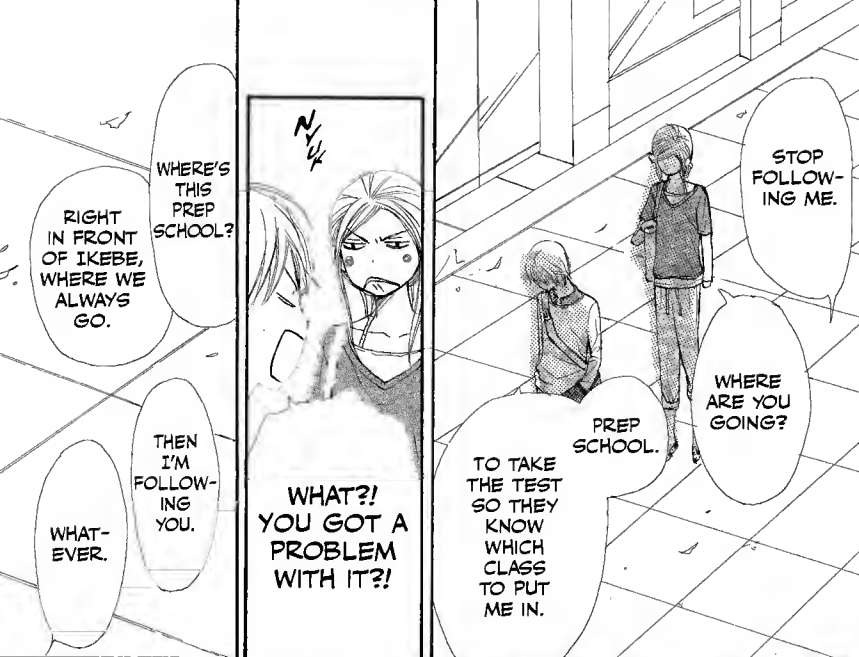


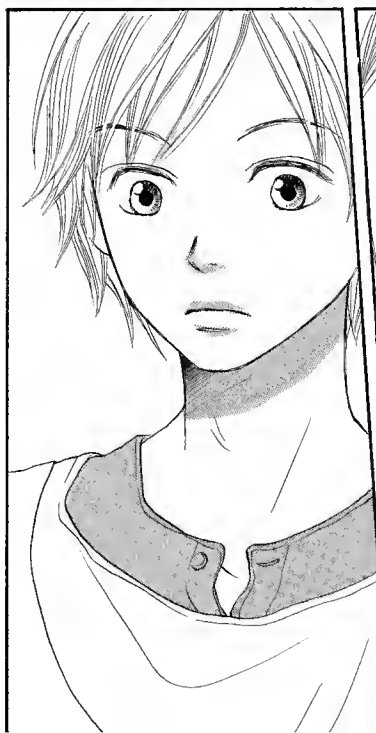
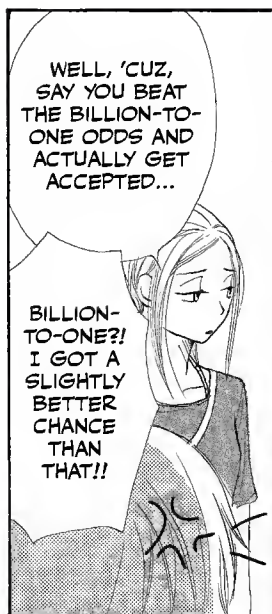
AND NOW
HE WANTS
TO LEAVE
ME BEHIND
AND GO TO
COLLEGE...?

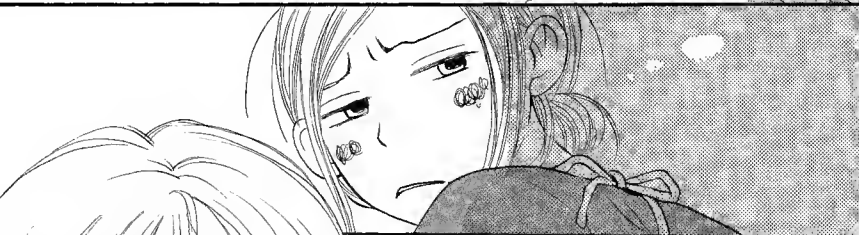
WHY IS HE
TRYING SO
HARD TO GO
SOMEPLACE
WHERE WE CAN'T
BE TOGETHER
ANYMORE?



WE SPENT
THE LAST
THREE YEARS
GETTING D'S
AND F'S AND
GOING TO
REMEDIAL
SUMMER
CLASSES.





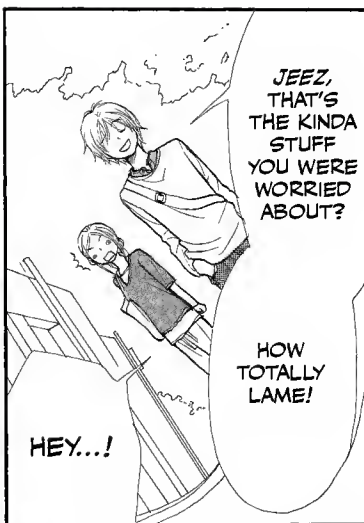




IT'S
NOT
LAME!
IT COULD
REALLY
HAPPEN!!

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
IF I GO TO
COLLEGE,
I WON'T
KNOW
ANYBODY
THERE.

BUT
WOW,
YEAH.



JEEZ,
THAT'S
THE KINDA
STUFF
YOU WERE
WORRIED
ABOUT?

HOW
TOTALLY
LAME!

HEY...!



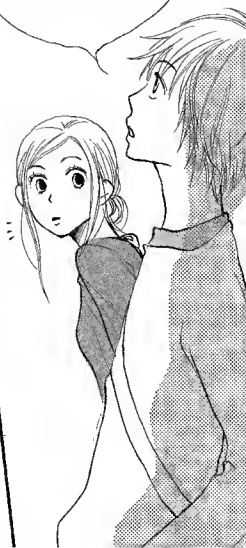
...YOU
KNOW...

I'M
REALLY
GOING
TO
MISS
ALL
THIS.



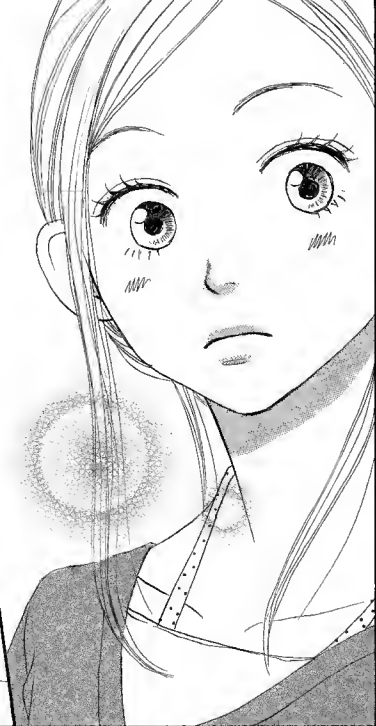
WELL,
I WON'T
BE
THERE
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.

NOBODY'S
GONNA BE
CALLING US
"ALL HANSHIN-
KYOJIN"
ANYMORE.
KINDA WEIRD,
HUH?



HEY,
KOIZUMI.
YOU
KNOW,
I...

**HEY!
IT'S
OUR
MAN
ÔTANI!!**



WHERE
THE HECK
DID YOU
GUYS COME
FROM? YOU
SCARED
ME!

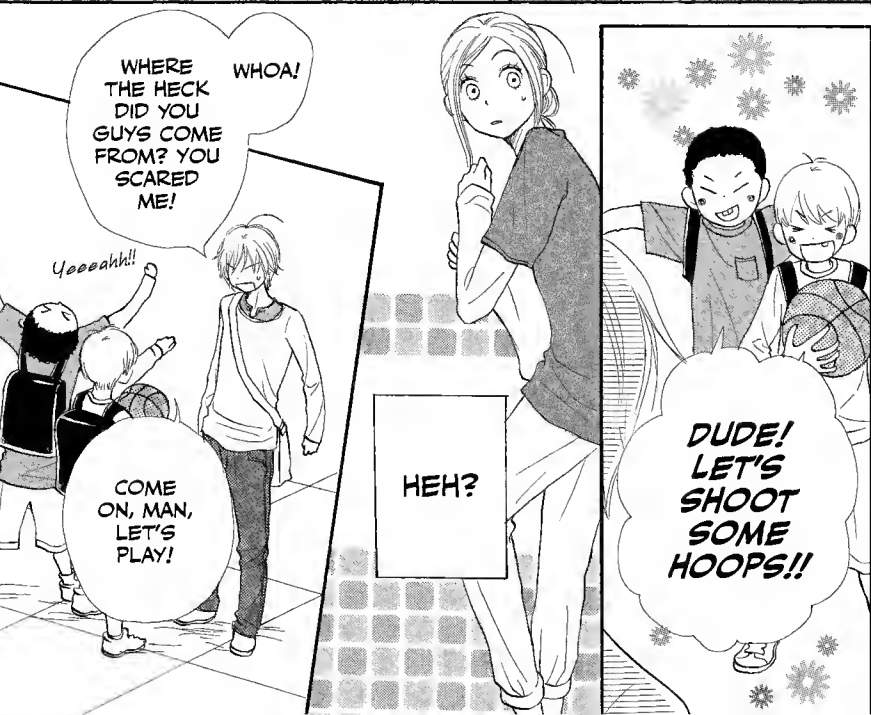
WHOA!

Yeeeahh!!

COME
ON, MAN,
LET'S
PLAY!

HEH?

**DUDE!
LET'S
SHOOT
SOME
HOOPS!!**



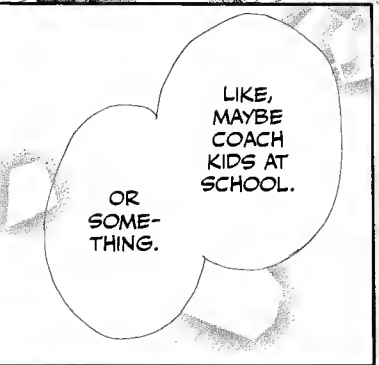




HUH?

NO, I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
AFTER
COLLEGE.

YOU
MEAN IN
COLLEGE?



OR
SOME-
THING.

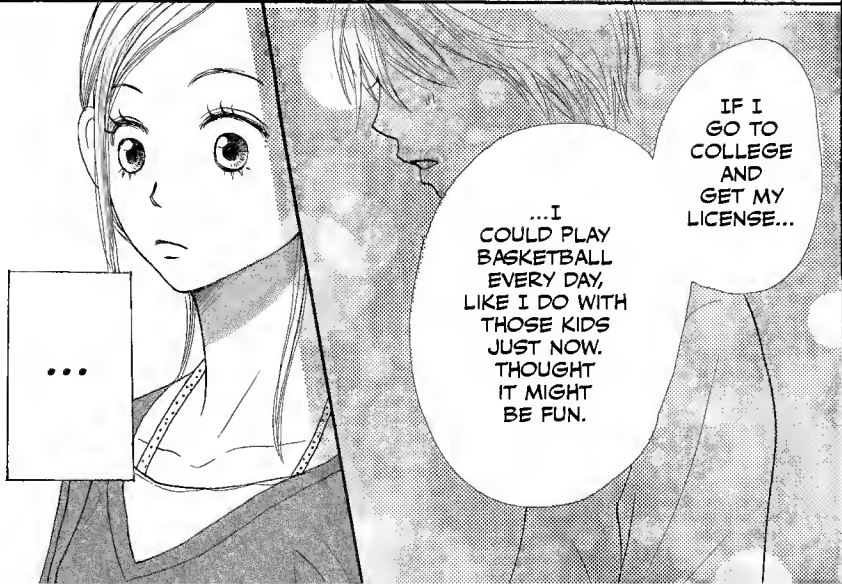
LIKE,
MAYBE
COACH
KIDS AT
SCHOOL.



PLAY
BASKET-
BALL.

...THAT'S
WHAT I
WANNA
DO,
SEE?

I DON'T
WANNA
GIVE UP
BASKET-
BALL.



...

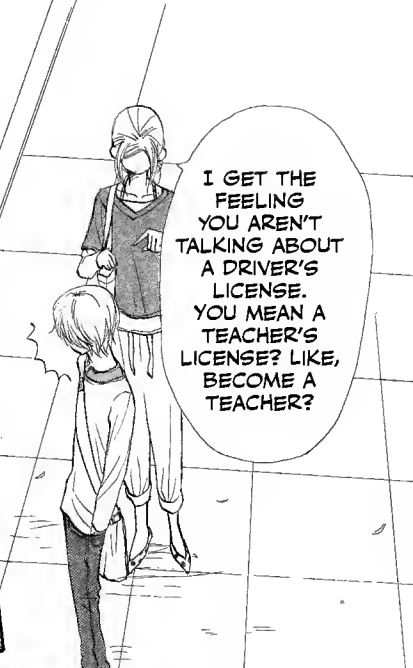
...I
COULD PLAY
BASKETBALL
EVERY DAY,
LIKE I DO WITH
THOSE KIDS
JUST NOW.
THOUGHT
IT MIGHT
BE FUN.

IF I
GO TO
COLLEGE
AND
GET MY
LICENSE...



I JUST
TOSSED
THAT OUT
AS AN
EXAMPLE!!
'CUZ I LIKE
KIDS AND
ALL!

W-
WELL,
MAYBE!
LIKE,
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT!!



I GET THE
FEELING
YOU AREN'T
TALKING ABOUT
A DRIVER'S
LICENSE.
YOU MEAN A
TEACHER'S
LICENSE? LIKE,
BECOME A
TEACHER?



HE
WANTS
TO BE A
TEACHER
...

A
TEACHER
...

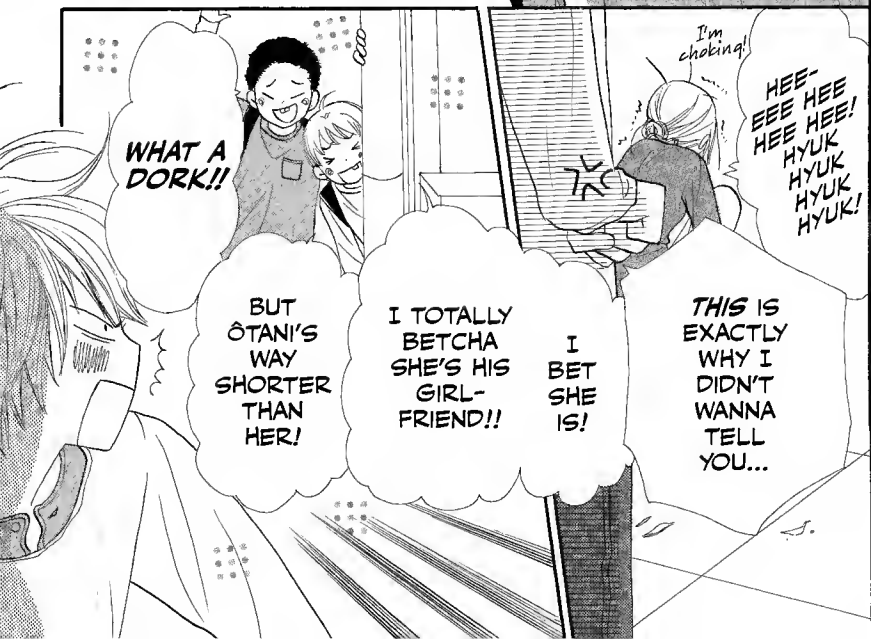
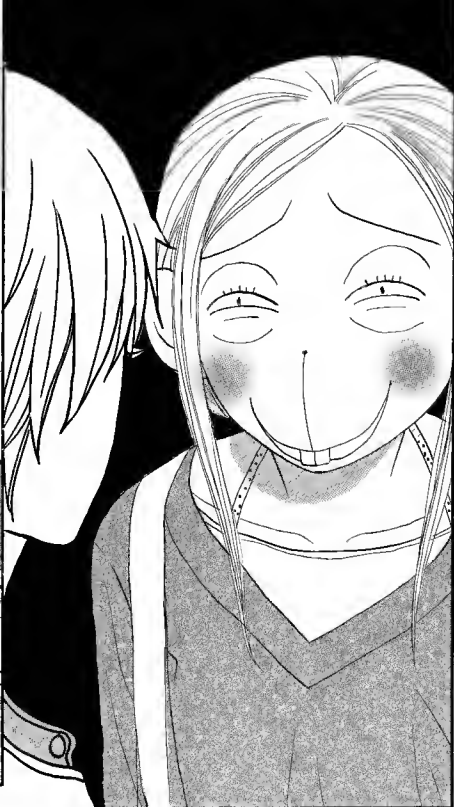
ÔTANI
WANTS
TO TEACH
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL...



SO, LIKE,
GRADE
SCHOOL!
Y'KNOW,
THE *EASY*
STUFF!

YOU
WANT TO
BE AN
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
TEACHER
...

WELL,
MAYBE!!
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT!!





I'M
SORRY
FOR
LAUGHING
SO HARD,
ÔTANI...

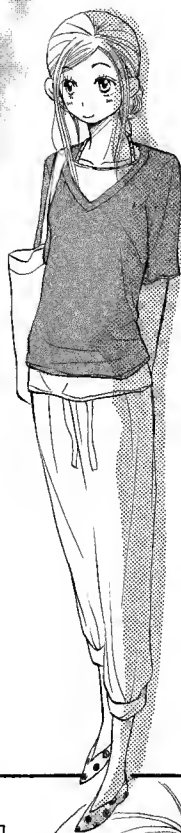
...BUT
IT'S
JUST
SO
FUNNY!

...HOW IS
ANYBODY
GOING TO BE
ABLE TO TELL
YOU APART
FROM YOUR
STUDENTS?!

EXCUSE
ME,
BUT...



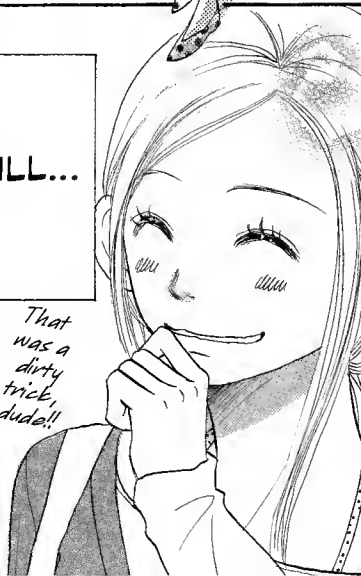
I MEAN,
MY GOSH,
YOU?
TEACHING
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL?



STILL...

...SOME-
HOW...

That
was a
dirty
trick,
dude!!





...I CAN
SEE YOU
DOING IT.
IT EVEN
KINDA
SUITS YOU.

A black and white manga-style illustration of three young men playing basketball outdoors. The man in the center, with light-colored hair and a wide smile, is holding a basketball high above his head with both hands. He is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. To his left, a boy with dark hair and a wide, toothy grin is cheering with his arms raised, wearing a dark t-shirt. To the right, another boy with short hair is seen from the side, also smiling and looking towards the central figure. He is wearing a dark shirt and a backpack. The background shows some foliage and a bright, sunny atmosphere.



SKWEE

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a close-up of the same light-haired boy from the previous panel. He has a serious, somewhat somber expression, looking slightly to the side. The background is a simple, textured grey.

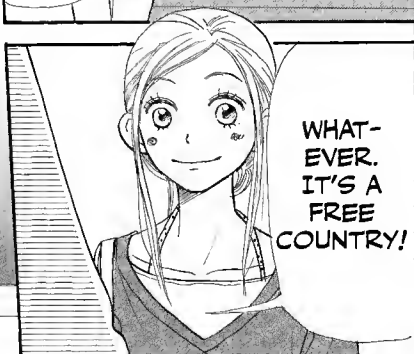


HEY,
GO FOR
IT! I
KNOW
YOU CAN
DO IT!



WHAT'RE
YOU STILL
DOING
HERE,
ANYWAY?
SCRAM!!

I'M
WAITING
FOR
YOU TIL
YOU'RE
DONE!



WHAT-
EVER.
IT'S A
FREE
COUNTRY!



I'M
CHEERING
YOU ON,
ÔTANI.



NO.
NOT AT
ALL.



ARE
YOU
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?

...




BECAUSE I
CAN HARDLY
WAIT TO
SEE LITTLE
MISTER
ÔTANI, THE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
TEACHER!

I'M
SERIOUS,
THOUGH,
ÔTANI. I
REALLY DO
WANT YOU
TO GO
FOR IT.

HEE
HEE.

THE
"LITTLE"
WAS
UNNECES-
SARY.
DOPE.

A person with long hair, wearing a dark t-shirt and light-colored pants, is sitting on a wooden bench. They are holding a bag in their left hand and looking down. The background shows some foliage and a fence.

IF THAT'S
THE REASON
YOU WANT
TO GO TO
COLLEGE,
I'M GONNA
CHEER YOU
ON FOR
REAL.

A close-up of a person's face, looking upwards with a thoughtful or slightly distressed expression. Their hand is near their face.

THAT
SUCKS.
WHAT A
TOTAL
DRAG...

BUT
THEN...

A sign for 'CAFE IKEBE' with a small logo above the text.

...COMING
HERE WITH
HIM EVERY
DAY WOULD
BE KINDA
WEIRD
TOO.

BUT IF HE'S
GOING TO
THIS PREP
COURSE EVERY
DAY AFTER
SCHOOL,
WE CAN'T
WALK HOME
TOGETHER
ANYMORE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR
CAFE IKEBE?
WANTED: PART-TIME WORKERS

A rectangular area containing several horizontal lines, likely representing a form or a list of names.

[Form with horizontal lines]



SO WE
WON'T BE
DOING
THE SAME
THING
AFTER WE
GRADUATE.

SO
WHAT?
WHO
CARES?

...A
PART-
TIME
JOB...

TABLE
FOR
ONE?

NO, UM,
EXCUSE
ME, BUT
I'M HERE
ABOUT
A PART-
TIME JOB?

THE
TWO OF
US ARE
GOING
TO BE
JUST
FINE.

MIS-TER OH-TANIIII....

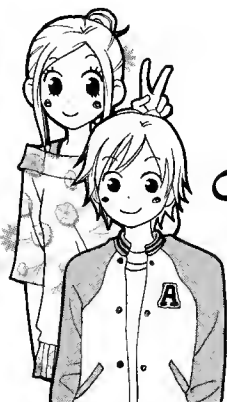
CAN WE GO
OUTSIDE AND PLAY?!

SHUT
UP!! I
SWEAR,
YOU
GUYS
ARE
DUST!!

Yaaaay!

Wheee

Woo
hoo!



CHAPTER 36



YEAH,
RIGHT.
THANKS
A LOT.

NOW
JUST
STAY
OUTTA
MY
WAY.

ÔTANI...

WHY?
WE'RE JUST
HELPING
YOU GET
USED TO
BEING A
TEACHER!



HE'S
SERIOUS.

HE
WANTS
TO BE A
TEACHER!

SO
THAT'S
IT.

SURE
LOOKS
LIKE IT.

...HAS
STARTED
STUDYING
REALLY
HARD
FOR HIS
EXAMS,
FOR REAL.



HM?

SO
WHAT,
YOU
AREN'T
GONNA
STOP
HIM?



HE CAN
DO IT!
HE'LL
MAKE IT
ON HIS
FIRST
TRY FOR
SURE.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
WHEN ÔTANI
GETS
SERIOUS,
HE GETS
SERIOUS.



HE MIGHT
NOT JUST
FAIL *THIS*
YEAR, BUT
NEXT
YEAR TOO,
OKAY?



MISTER
ÔTANI!
♡

WELL,
GOSH. I
WANT TO
SEE HIM
BECOME A
TEACHER.

HEE
HEE!
♡

BOY,
ARE YOU
SINGING A
DIFFERENT
TUNE FROM
LAST WEEK.
TALK ABOUT
A TOTAL
FLIP-FLOP!

NOW
THAT I
KNOW
WHAT IT'S
FOR, I'M
BEHIND
HIM ALL
THE WAY.



NO, WE
DON'T
HAVE
OURS
TODAY.

YOU AND
SUZUKI-KUN
TOO,
CHIHARU?

UH-
HUH.

WE'RE
IN A
DIFFERENT
CLASS
FROM
OTANI.



YOU'RE
TOTALLY
MAKING
FUN
OF ME.

I
CERTAINLY
AM
NOT!

YOU
HAVE
YOUR
PREP
COURSE
TODAY?



Waaah!

I didn't
mean
it like
that at
aaaaa!!!!

YEAH,
THEY'RE IN
THE "ELITE
UNIVERSITY
HERE WE
COME"
CLASS WHILE
I'M IN THE
"INTENSIVE
DRILLS FOR
LOSERS"
CLASS.



WHAT.

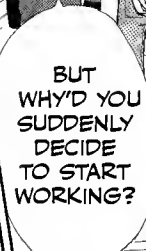
SNIP!

WELL,
THE
THING IS,
YOU SEE,
I'LL BE
GOING
IN THE
SAME
DIRECTION
AS YOU.



Oh.
WE CAN'T
GO HOME
TOGETHER
FOR A
WHILE,
KOIZUMI.

I'M
GOING
STRAIGHT
OVER
THERE
FROM
SCHOOL
EVERY
DAY.





I CARE.
A LOT!

HOW
COME?

...WE
SEE EACH
OTHER AT
SCHOOL
EVERY DAY.
SO WE DON'T
GO HOME
TOGETHER,
WHO CARES?

WELL,
YEAH,
BUT...



SO I JUST
WANNA SPEND
AS MUCH TIME
WITH YOU AS
I CAN, *WHILE* I
CAN. YOU KNOW?
WHILE WE STILL
GET TO SEE
EACH OTHER
EVERY DAY.

WELL,
GOSH.

WE'RE
GONNA
GRADUATE
PRETTY
SOON. LIKE,
IN A FEW
MONTHS.

AND WE
ALREADY
KNOW
WE'RE
GOING
DIFFERENT
PLACES
AFTER
THAT.

UH-HUH.



...THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

AM I
BEING
A PAIN?!
WILL I
BE IN
YOUR
WAY?!

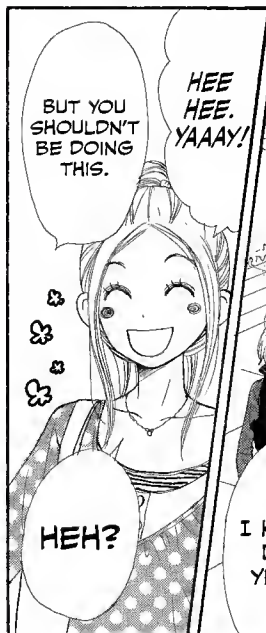
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
GET IN
YOUR WAY
OR ANY-
THING, I
PROMISE!



...OH
JEEZ.

YOU
BIG
FOOL.

OH,
UM!



BUT YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE DOING
THIS.

HEE
HEE.
YAAAY!

HEH?



YES, IT
WOULD,
AS A
MATTER
OF
FACT.

WOULD
THAT BE
ON YOUR
HEART-
STRINGS,
PERHAPS?!

I KINDA
DO,
YEAH.

YOU LIKE
THIS KINDA
STUFF?!



HERE
I NEED
TO STUDY,
AND YOU'RE
GIVING ME
A LITTLE
TUG RIGHT
AROUND
HERE.

JEEZ,
KOIZUMI
...

A
TUG?!
OH
MY!
♡

IS THAT
FOR
REAL?

YUP.

'CUZ MY
PARENTS
WERE REALLY
PUSHING ME TO
GO TO JUNIOR
COLLEGE.
SO IF I DON'T,
I FIGURE
I SHOULD
AT LEAST
PAY HALF.

SO I
NEED
TO SAVE
UP FOR
THAT.

I'D
ALREADY
DECIDED
THAT IF I
WENT TO A
VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL,
I'D PAY
HALF THE
TUITION
MYSELF.

YEAH,
TOTALLY.

WELL, YOU
HAVEN'T
EVEN
DECIDED
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING AFTER
GRADUATION
OR ANY-
THING. YOU
SURE YOU
GOT THE
TIME FOR
A JOB?

OH!
DON'T YOU
DARE
COME TO
IKEBE
WHEN I'M
WORKING
THERE,
OKAY?

UH-
HUH.

...WOW.

SO YOU
ARE
THINKING
ABOUT
YOUR
FUTURE
A LITTLE.

WHY
NOT?

'CUZ I
WOULD DIE
IF I HAD TO
GO TAKE
YOUR ORDER
WEARING
THAT
UNIFORM.



SURE,
THAT MAKES
ME FEEL
KINDA SAD,
BUT WE'RE
GOING
TO BE
JUST FINE.

SO WE'RE
GRADUAT-
ING SOON.
AND NOT
GOING TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AFTER-
WARD.

DON'T
EVEN!!

*I knew
you'd say
that!*

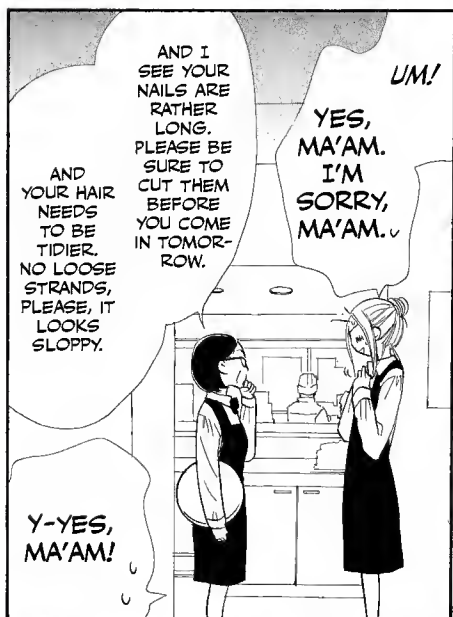
YOU
KIDDING
ME? I'M
TOTALLY
GOING!

THAT IS
GOING
TO BE
**HILARI-
OUS!**



'CUZ IN
SPITE OF
EVERY-
THING, THE
TWO OF
US ARE
TOTALLY
IN LOVE!

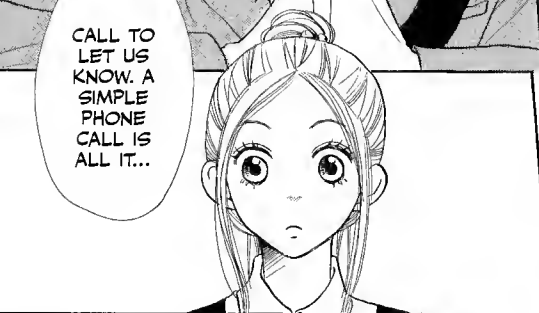
*too
hee*





WHAT DID I ASK YOU TO DO IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE?

CALL TO LET US KNOW. A SIMPLE PHONE CALL IS ALL IT...



I'm sorry, Miz Matsubara.

YOU'RE FIVE MINUTES LATE.

FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW.

I had to stay after class for a little while, and, uh, I'm really...



WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME, KOHORI-KUN?!

HEY, MIZ MATSUBARA, WE GOT SOMEBODY NEW IN HERE?!

AWW. WHAT A CUTIE.

OH, UM, SORRY, MIZ M! NO, I WASN'T!



SMILE



WONDER
IF HE'S
YOUNGER
THAN
ME?

HE'S
PRETTY
TINY.
ABOUT
THE SAME
SIZE AS
ÔTANI,
MAYBE.

YES,
MA'AM!

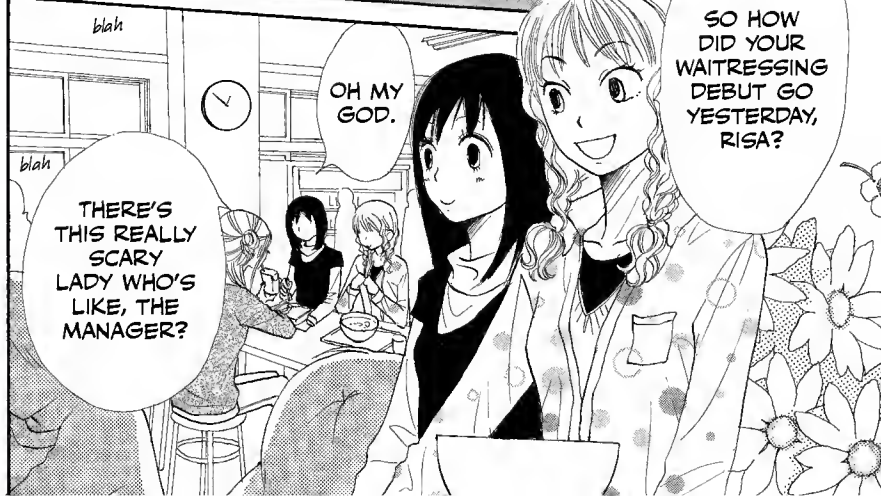
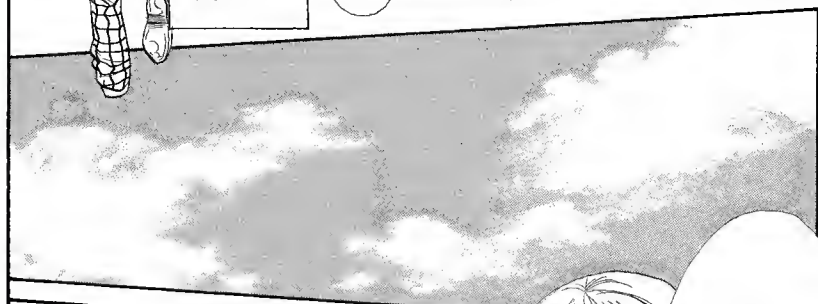
EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST FIVE
MINUTES!!

NOW
GO ON,
HURRY UP
AND GET
CHANGED!

EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST FIVE
MINUTES?

WHAAT?

I WAS
SAYING,
CALL IF
YOU'RE
GOING
TO BE
LATE,
SO WE
KNOW...



THERE'S
THIS REALLY
SCARY
LADY WHO'S
LIKE, THE
MANAGER?

OH MY
GOD.

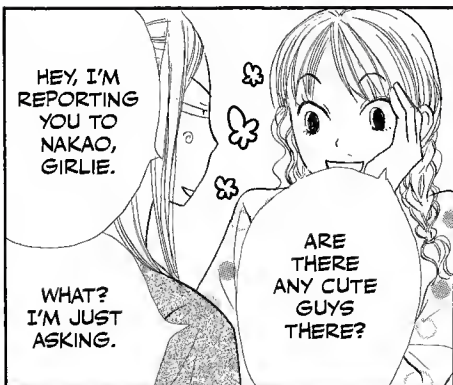
SO HOW
DID YOUR
WAITRESSING
DEBUT GO
YESTERDAY,
RISA?



YOUNGER
?

ACTUALLY,
THERE *WAS*
THIS CUTE
GUY IN THE
KITCHEN.
THIS REALLY
TINY LITTLE
CUTE GUY.

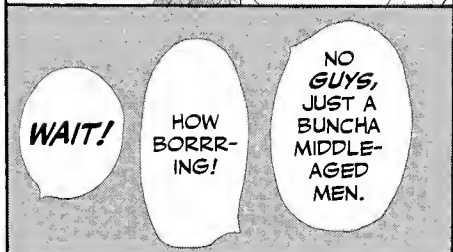
YEAH. HE
SAID HE'S
A FIRST-
YEAR AT AN
ALL-GUYS'
SCHOOL.



HEY, I'M
REPORTING
YOU TO
NAKAO,
GIRLIE.

WHAT?
I'M JUST
ASKING.

ARE
THERE
ANY CUTE
GUYS
THERE?



WAIT!

HOW
BORRR-
ING!

NO
GUYS,
JUST A
BUNCHA
MIDDLE-
AGED
MEN.



YEAH,
I HEARD HE
STAYED BEHIND
REALLY LATE
YESTERDAY
TO GO OVER
THE PARTS HE
DIDN'T UNDER-
STAND WITH
THE TEACHER.

WHAT?

NO WAY!
ÔTANI?
STAYING
BEHIND TO
STUDY?



THAT
REMINDS ME,
IT SOUNDS
LIKE ÔTANI'S
BEEN STUDYING
SUPER-HARD
FOR HIS PREP
COURSE.




WHO
SAYS
I'M A
SHRIMP-
LOVER?!

A *LITTLE*
GUY, EH?
MUST
MAKE THE
SHRIMP-
LOVER
IN YOU
SALIVATE.

OH!



OH.
WOW...



PLUS,
SUZUKI SAID
ÔTANI'S BEEN
CALLING
HIM UP AT
NIGHT TO
ASK HIM TO
EXPLAIN
STUFF
TO HIM.

ÔTANI...



SLIK
✦



HE'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT,
FOR
REAL...

bzzzzzz



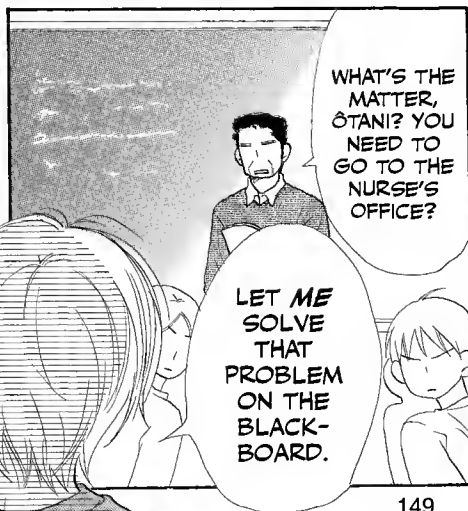
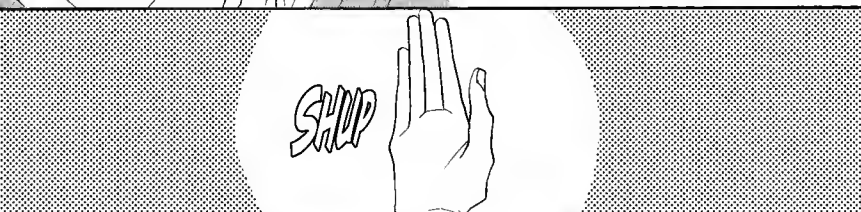
IN FACT,
PREPARE
TO BE
DAZZLED.

WELL,
GET
USED
TO IT.



MAY I
HELP
YOU?

NO, UH...
I WAS JUST
IMPRESSED...
BY YOUR
IMPRESSIVE
DILIGENCE...



WHAT'S THE
MATTER,
ÔTANI? YOU
NEED TO
GO TO THE
NURSE'S
OFFICE?

LET *ME*
SOLVE
THAT
PROBLEM
ON THE
BLACK-
BOARD.





KTUNK

HAVE YOU
LOOKED
AT IT?!

THERE IS
NO WAY..



WHAT?!



$x^3 - 1x^2 + 2x + 1$
 $-x^2 - 3x + 2$



OMIGOD.



WHADDAYA
MEAN,
THAT
WASN'T A
"SOME-
STROKE
OF LUCK,
MAN.

YOU
GOT THE
RIGHT
ANSWER,
SOME-
HOW.

WHAAAAT?!



(continued)

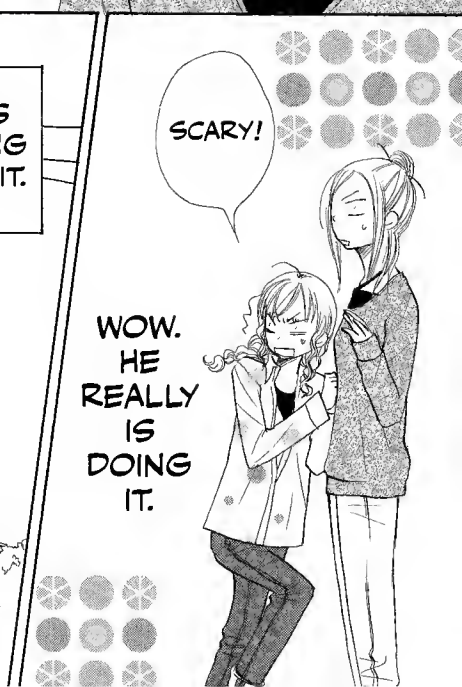
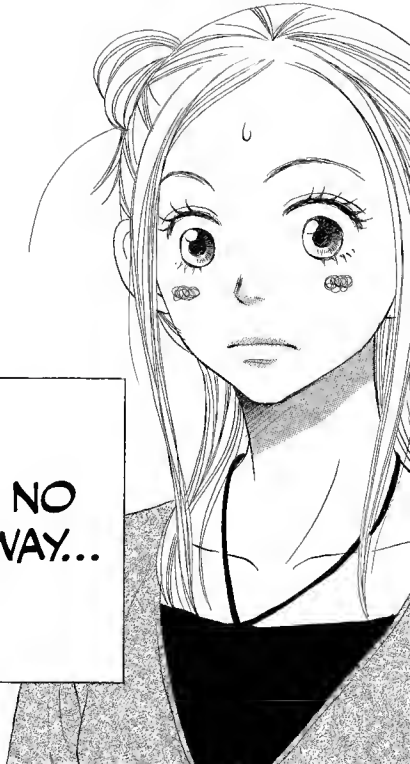


And this is the same page in Thai! Now... In Korea, Love*Com is being serialized in a magazine called PARTY, where it appears alongside manga that are published in different magazines in Japan, which is kind of a weird feeling. Gotta hustle! So anyway, that's it for Volume 9. Hope you'll nip...ple down to the store to pick up Vol. 10 when it comes out. ♥

Aya

October 2004







MAYBE I
CAN JUST HMMM.
STAY ON
HERE AS A
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE...

I BETTER
DECIDE
WHAT I'M
GOING TO
DO WITH MY
LIFE. OR AT
LEAST, WHAT
I'M GOING
TO STUDY
NEXT YEAR.



HYAARGH!!

KASHA



GYAAK!!
OWWWW!!

I'm
bleeding!!

KOIZUMI-
SAN!!



TANIK

OH,
GOSH,
I'M SO
SORRY!
I'LL
CLEAN IT
UP IN A...



KOIZUMI-
SAN!

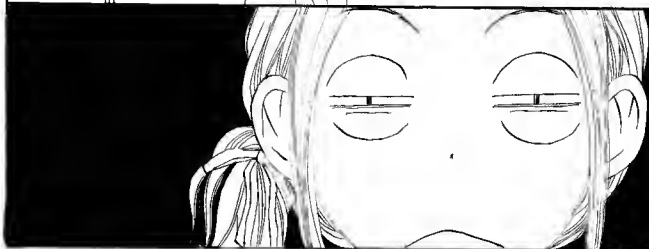






WHAT'S THE
POINT OF
GOING TO
VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL IF I'M
NO GOOD AT
ANYTHING?

IT'LL
JUST
BE A
BIG
WASTE
OF
TIME.



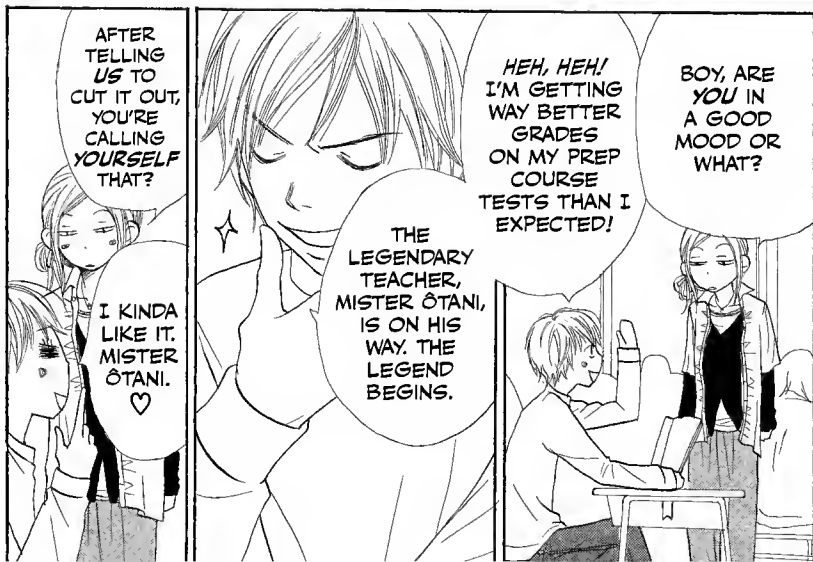
AFTER
TELLING
US TO
CUT IT OUT,
YOU'RE
CALLING
YOURSELF
THAT?

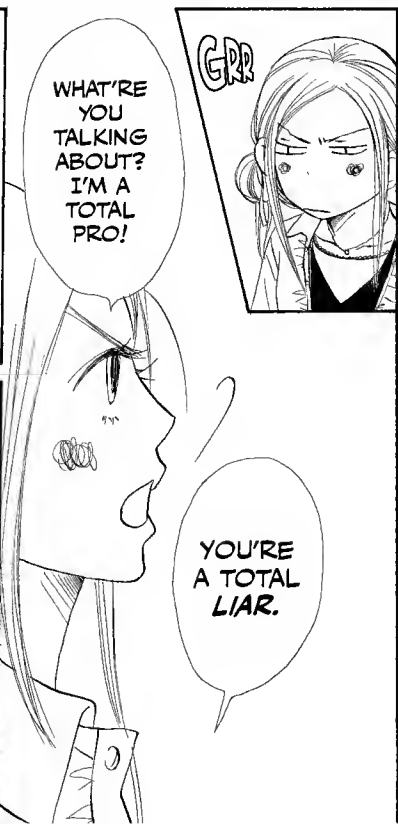
I KINDA
LIKE IT.
MISTER
ÔTANI.
♡

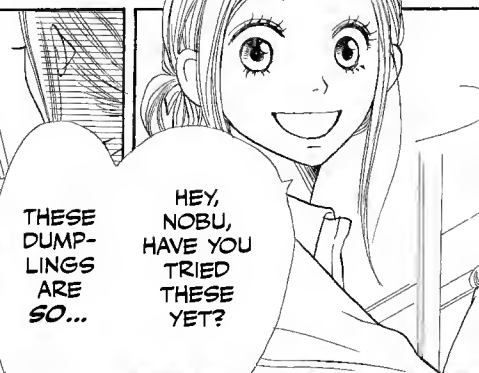
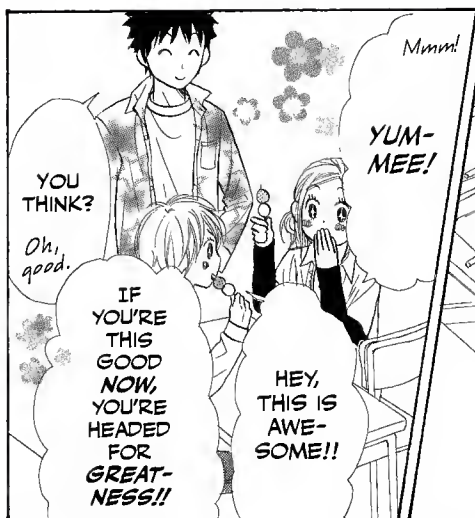
THE
LEGENDARY
TEACHER,
MISTER ÔTANI,
IS ON HIS
WAY. THE
LEGEND
BEGINS.

HEH, HEH!
I'M GETTING
WAY BETTER
GRADES
ON MY PREP
COURSE
TESTS THAN I
EXPECTED!

BOY, ARE
YOU IN
A GOOD
MOOD OR
WHAT?









Use this formula, and...

Let's see...

I don't get how to do this.

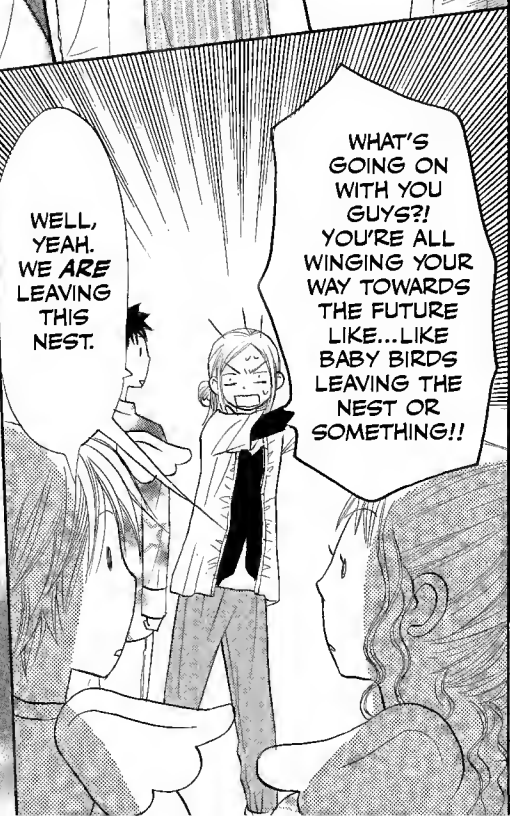


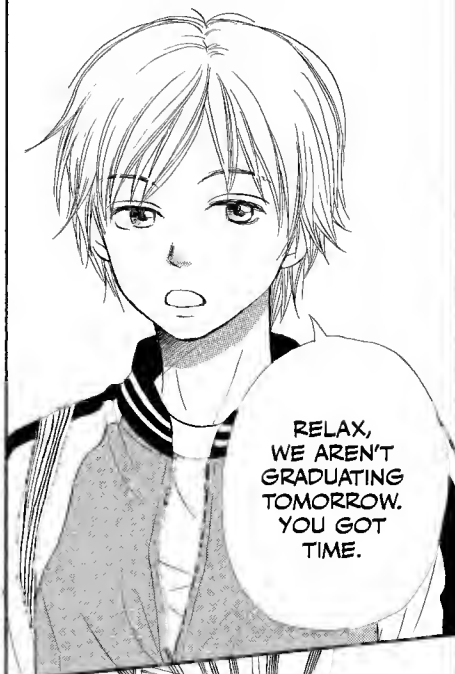
IT'S LIKE...

OMI-GOD, WHAT IS THIS?

WELL, YEAH. WE ARE LEAVING THIS NEST.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU GUYS?! YOU'RE ALL WINGING YOUR WAY TOWARDS THE FUTURE LIKE...LIKE BABY BIRDS LEAVING THE NEST OR SOMETHING!!





RELAX,
WE AREN'T
GRADUATING
TOMORROW.
YOU GOT
TIME.

...LIKE
I'M
GETTING
LEFT
BEHIND
ALL BY
MYSELF
HERE...?



THAT'S
RIGHT,
AFTER
YOU TOLD
ME MY
BRAIN WAS
GONNA
SHORT OUT
AND STUFF
LIKE THAT!!

JUST
BECAUSE
YOU'RE IN
TIP-TOP
CONDITION
YOUR-
SELF!!

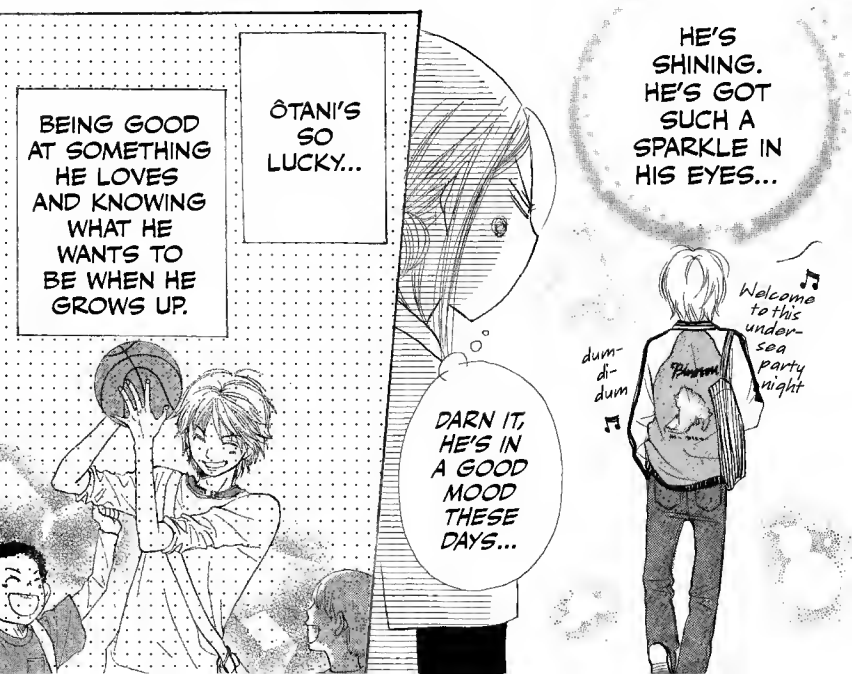
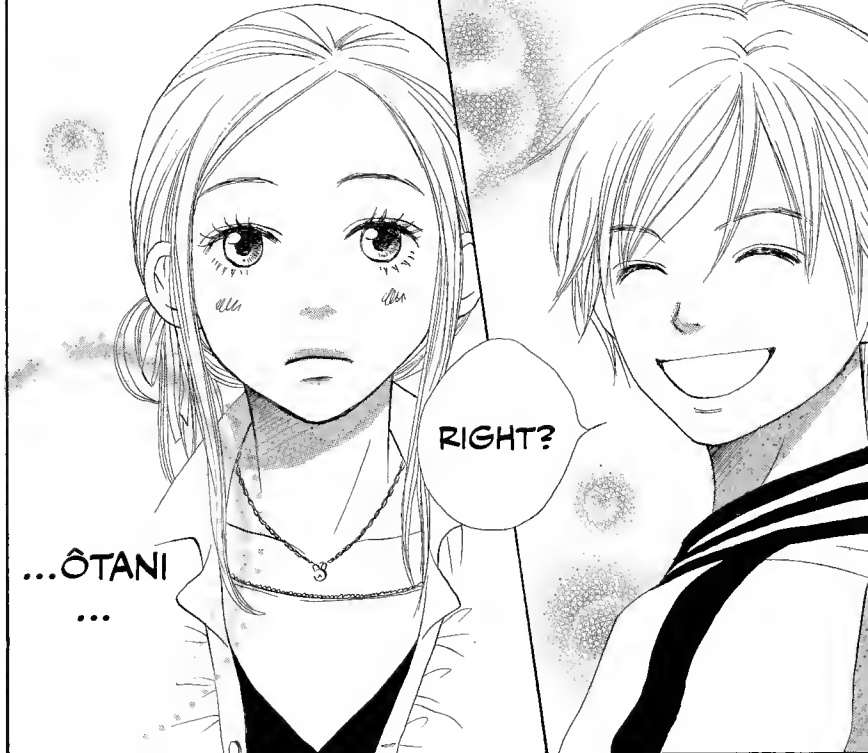


TOMORROW'S
THAT
UMBÔZU
SHOW.

OH,
HEY.







I'm
really
sorry.

I'M NO
GOOD AT
ANYTHING,
AND I'M
CLUELESS
ABOUT WHAT
I WANT TO
DO AFTER
GRADUATION.

WHOOOPS-
A-DAISEEE!
I'M SORRY,
I DID IT
AGAAAII!!

KA-
SHANNK

Argh!

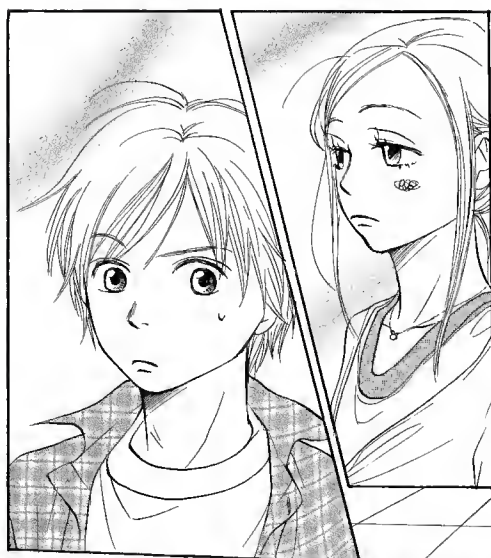
MAYBE GOING
DIFFERENT
WAYS AFTER
HIGH SCHOOL
WILL BE
A HUGE
PROBLEM.

UNTIL NOW,
I ALWAYS HAD
ÔTANI FAILING
TESTS AND
STUFF WITH
ME, SO IT
DIDN'T SEEM
LIKE A BIG
DEAL.

YOU
READY
TO ROCK
OUT?
'CUZ I
AM!!

YO!

PRETTY
SOON,
THOUGH,
WE WON'T
BE A TEAM
ANYMORE.



WHOA,
YOU ARE
TOTALLY
NOT READY
TO ROCK
OUT!!

THAT
IS NOT
TRUE.
I AM
RARING
TO GO.



YO,
BOYS
AND
GIRLS!
WHAT'S
UP?

IT'S
GREAT
TO BE
BACK IN
OSAKA!

海坊主

...BUT
PLEASE
DON'T
LEAVE ME
BEHIND
ALL BY
MYSELF,
OKAY?

I KNOW
WE'RE
GRADU-
ATING
SOON...

...AND
DOING
DIFFERENT
THINGS
AFTER
THAT...

BOOOO-
ZUUUU

ÔTANI...

BOOOO!

ZUM
ZUM
ZUM
ZUM
ZUM
ZUM
ZUM
ZUM

HEY!

YOU
STUPID
DOPE!!

WAITA...!

PLEASE
...

KOI-
ZUM!!

**First Aid
Station**

DON'T GO
AWAY AND
LEAVE ME
BEHIND...

*You're
the one
who's
going
away!*

FLUTTER



I DID?!
OMIGOD,
I AM SO
STUPID!!

YOU GOT
SUCKED INTO
THE CROWD
AND ENDED
UP FAINTING
'CUZ YOU
COULDN'T
BREATHE.

YOU
SURE
ARE.

HAD ME
WORRIED
SICK.

MWUP

THUD

THUD

THUD

This
way...

WTF

...HUH
...?

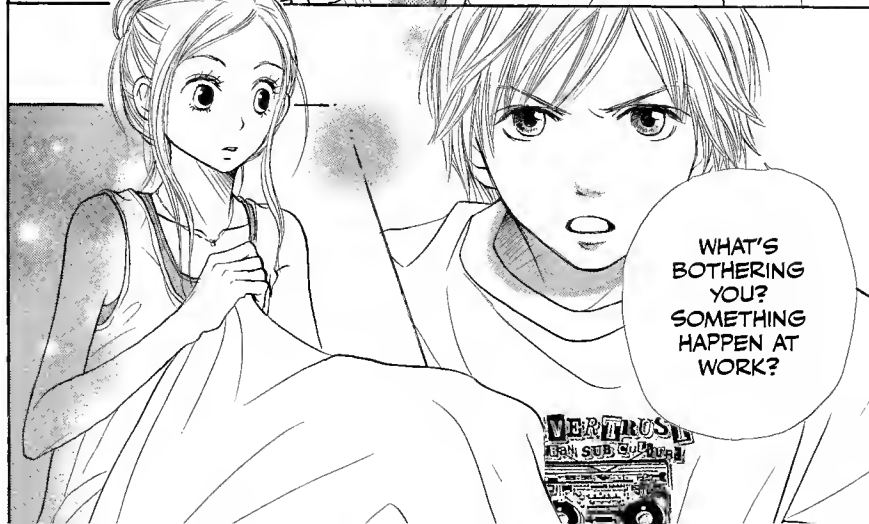
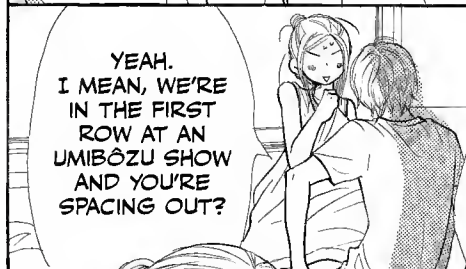
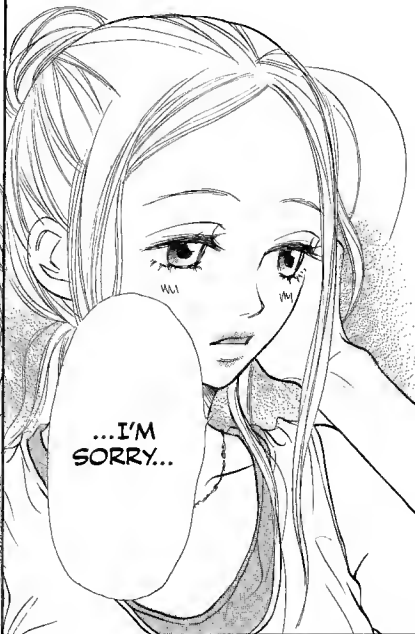
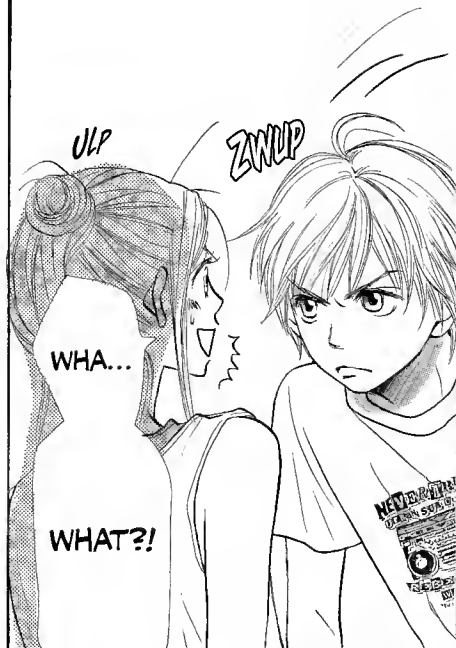
ÔTANI
...?

?

WHAT
AM I
DOING
HERE...?

THUD

THUD



UH-OH...
THERE
SHOULD
BE THREE
SODAS...
WHERE'D
THE THIRD
ONE GO
...?

SHATTER

I PICK
ONE UP, IT
FALLS AND
BREAKS.
I PICK
ANOTHER
ONE UP, IT
FALLS AND
BREAKS.

YIKES

...THE
GLASSES
THERE
ARE
CURSED
...

HYAAAGH!!
HYEELPP!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!!

WELL,
GOSH!

LIKE, AS IF
A KLUTZ LIKE
YOU'D BE A
WAITRESS AND
BE A TOTAL
PRO AT IT.

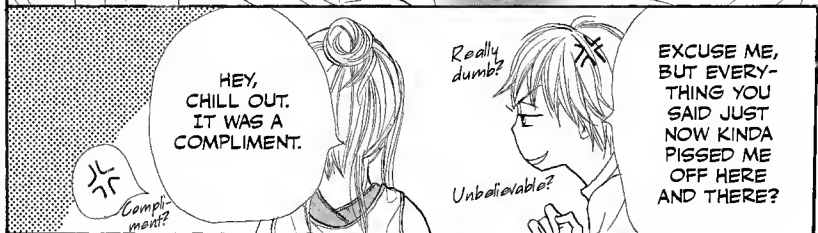
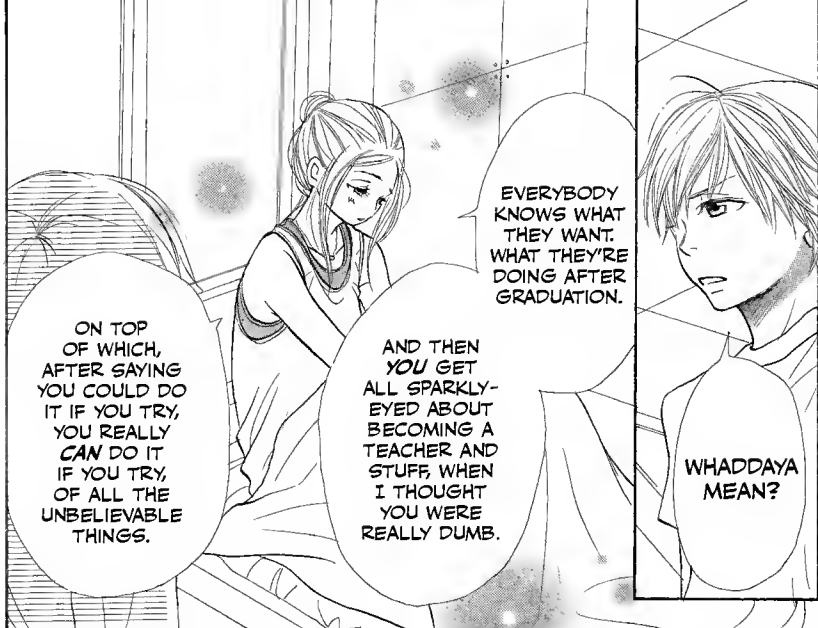
I
TOTALLY
KNEW
THAT'S
WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN,
THOUGH.

I DIDN'T
WANT YOU
TO THINK I'M
TOTALLY
LAME.

WELL,
GOSH...

SO THEN
I HAVE
THE SCARY
MANAGER
LADY ON MY
CASE ALL THE
TIME. SHE'S
YELLING AT ME
NONSTOP.

OH,
WOW...

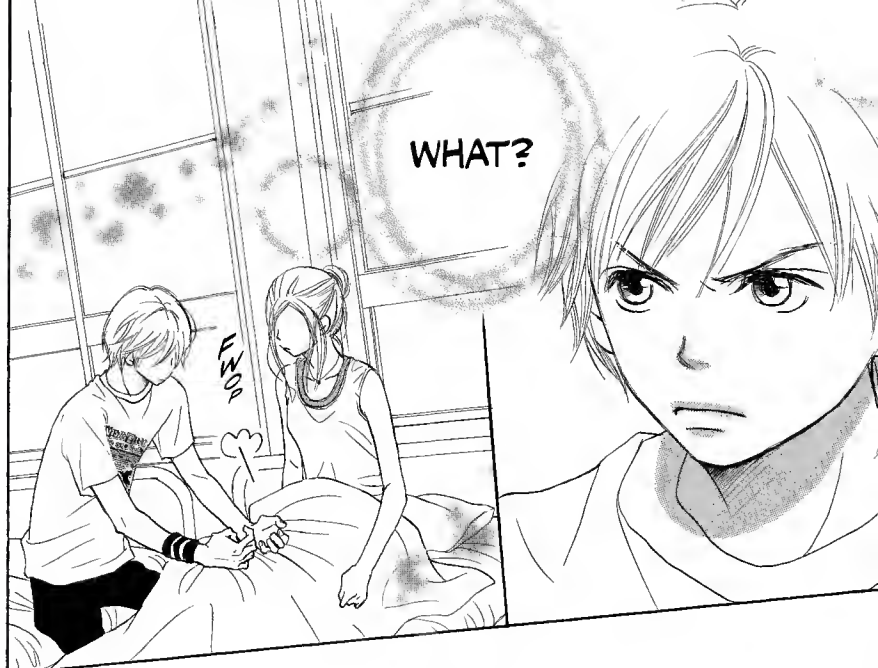


GWR

ZWOOSH

I DON'T
CARE
IF IT'S
PATHETIC.
TELL ME
ANYWAY!!

YOU WORRY
ABOUT STUFF
BY YOURSELF
AND GO FAINTING
ON ME EVERY
TIME YOU'RE
FEELING LAME,
IT'S GONNA KILL
ME! LITERALLY!
MY HEART
ABOUT STOPPED
TODAY!!



LIKE, FOR
EXAMPLE
...

OH
YEAH.
GUESS
THAT'S
TRUE...

LIKE I EVER
THOUGHT YOU
WERE COOL.
I ALREADY
KNOW YOU'RE
TOTALLY LAME.

...WE WERE
RIGHT UP
FRONT, AND
THANKS TO
YOU WE
DIDN'T GET
TO SEE
UMIBÔZU
AT ALL.
GOOD ONE,
KOIZUMI.

...TOO
PATHETIC
TO TELL
ME, RIGHT.
GIMME A
BREAK.

**I AM
SO
STUPID.**

...I'M
SORRY.

I'M SO LAME
I FAINT AND
MAKE HIM MISS
AN UMIBÔZU
SHOW, AND
LOOK AT HOW
SERIOUSLY
WORRIED HE
WAS ABOUT ME.

WHAT WAS
I WORRIED
ABOUT?
AS IF ÔTANI
WOULD EVER
LEAVE ME
BEHIND.
I MEAN,
MY GOD...

YEAH.

SO YOU
WANNA
GO?

YEAH.

YOU
FEELING
BETTER
NOW?



LOOK AT
HOW HE
PUSHED
THROUGH
THAT HUGE
CROWD OF
PEOPLE...



...TO COME
LOOKING
FOR ME.
WITHOUT A
SECOND
THOUGHT
FOR
UMIBÔZU OR
ANYTHING
ELSE.

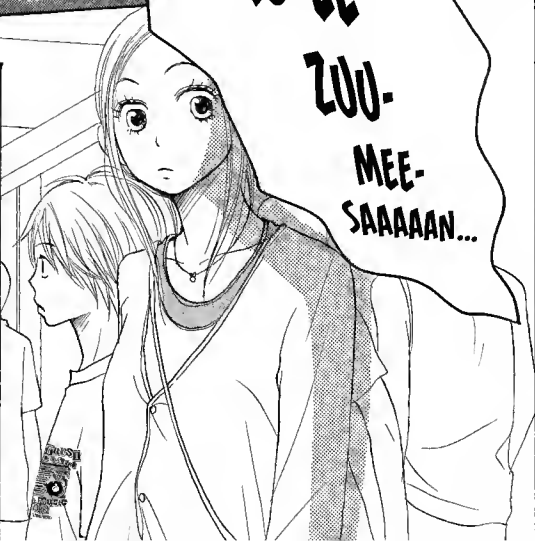
K-Kaizumi!!!
Y-you
okayyy?!

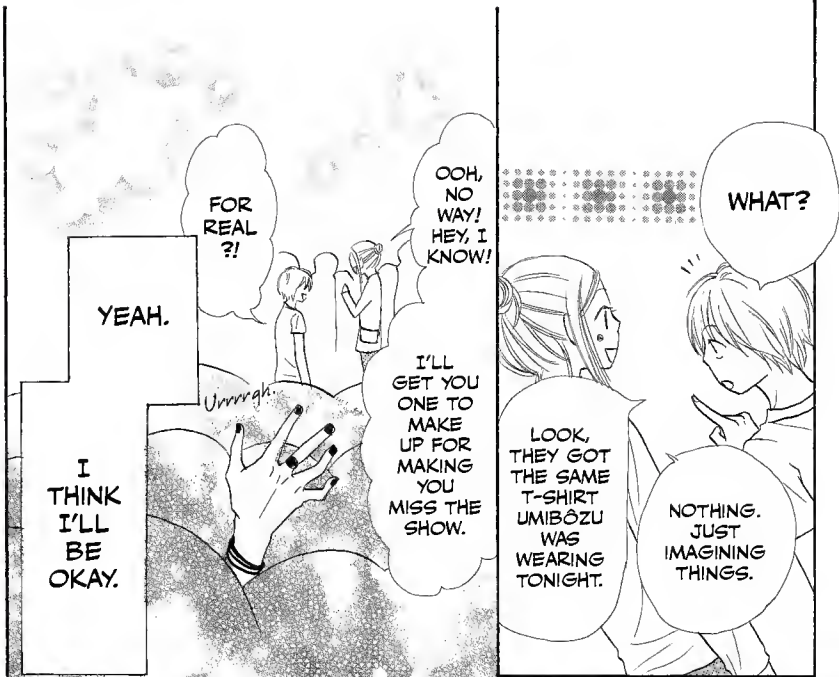


blah

blah

blah





YEAH.

I
THINK
I'LL
BE
OKAY.

FOR
REAL
?!

OOH,
NO
WAY!
HEY, I
KNOW!

I'LL
GET YOU
ONE TO
MAKE
UP FOR
MAKING
YOU
MISS THE
SHOW.

Umrrgh.

WHAT?

LOOK,
THEY GOT
THE SAME
T-SHIRT
UMIBÔZU
WAS
WEARING
TONIGHT.

NOTHING.
JUST
IMAGINING
THINGS.



I
know.
I'm
sorry.
I will.

I MIGHT
BE LAME,
BUT FOR
THE TIME
BEING,
ANYWAY...

I'LL AT
LEAST TRY
TO BE A
BETTER
WAITRESS.

《...to be continued》

glossary

Page 11, panel 2: Nori-tsukkomi

A type of comedy delivery when you pretend to go along with the setup, and then turn around and call the other person on it.

Page 59, panel 1: Bonus manga stuck inside

Some magazines in Japan bind mini-booklets of bonus manga into the magazine by the page edges rather than the spine, so that you can't read the bonus story unless you rip the booklet out.

Page 69, panel 3: Tengu nose

Tengu are bird demons from Japanese folklore, and when a person like Ôtani gets a tengu nose, it means they are being a braggart or too full of themselves.

Page 95, panel 2: College entrance exams

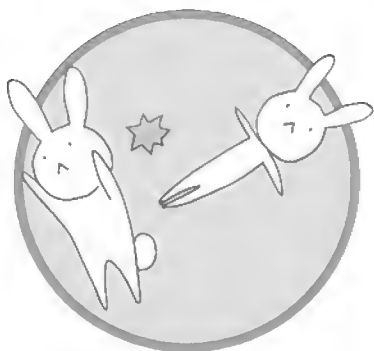
In Japan, college entrance exams are somewhat similar to the SATs. There are five tests on Japanese, Math, Science, History, and English that all Japanese students take in the final year of high school, and acceptance into most colleges is based solely on these scores. The tests are long and difficult, and students study at least one year (usually three) to take them.

Page 99, panel 2: Prep school

Prep schools offer additional, structured studying for college entrance exams. Many high school students in Japan quit all other activities their final year in order to attend prep school and study for the entrance exams.

Page 157: Sweet dumplings

Called *dango* in Japanese, these dumplings are made of rice flour with various flavorings. Some popular types of dango include *anko* (with sweet red bean paste), *mitarashi* (with a sweetened soy sauce), and *bocchan* (red, white and green).



Lately I've been misjudging distances a lot, especially when going through doorways, so that I crash my shoulder against the side. And stub my toes. On days when I kick over a garbage can by mistake and get its contents all over the place, I feel like the stupidest person on earth and get a little depressed for a while. In fact, I'm a little depressed right now. Sniff sniff...

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 9

The Shaja Beat Manga Edition



STORY AND ART BY AYA NAKAHARA

Translation & English Adaptation/Paakie Ralf

Touch-up Art & Lettering/Gia Cam Luc

Design/Yuki Ameda

Editor/Pancha Diaz

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu

Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum

VP, Publishing Licensing /Rika Inouye

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